

Soil water balance models for determining crop water and irrigation requirements and irrigation scheduling focusing on the FAO56 method and the dual K_c approach

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ABSTRACT

This study reviews soil water balance (SWB) model approaches to determine crop irrigation requirements and scheduling irrigation adopting the FAO56 method. The K_c -ET_o approach is discussed with consideration of baseline concepts namely standard vs. actual K_c concepts, as well as single and dual K_c approaches. Requirements for accurate SWB and appropriate parameterization and calibration are introduced. The one-step vs. the two-step computational approaches is discussed before the review of the FAO56 method to compute and partition crop evapotranspiration and related soil water balance. A brief review on transient state models is also included. Baseline information is concluded with a discussion on yields prediction and performance indicators related to water productivity. The study is continued with an overview on models development and use after publication of FAO24, essentially single K_c models, followed by a review on models following FAO56, particularly adopting the dual K_c approach. Features of dual K_c modeling approaches are analyzed through a few applications of the SWB model SIMDualKc, mainly for derivation of basal and single K_c , extending the basal K_c approach to relay intercrop cultivation, assessing alternative planting dates, determining beneficial and non-beneficial uses of water by an irrigated crop, and assessing the groundwater contribution to crop ET in the presence of a shallow water table. The review finally discusses the challenges placed to SWB modeling for real time irrigation scheduling, particularly the new modeling approaches for large scale multi-users application, use of cloud computing and adopting the internet of things (IoT), as well as an improved wireless association of modeling with soil and plant sensors. Further challenges refer to the use of remote sensing energy balance and vegetation indices to map K_c , ET and crop water and irrigation requirements. Trends are expected to change research issues relative to SWB modeling, with traditional models mainly used for research while new, fast-responding and multi-users models based on cloud and IoT technologies will develop into applications to the farm practice. Likely, the K_c -ET_o will continue to be used, with ET_o from gridded networks, re-analysis and other sources, and K_c data available in real time from large databases and remote sensing.

1. Introduction

The current imbalance between water demand and supply in agriculture has driven the search for new equilibria through adopting modern technologies and management tools to optimize irrigation water use (Pereira et al., 2009; Pereira, 2017; Jovanovic et al., 2020). The successful use of these tools depends, however, upon their adaptation to prevailing social, economic, institutional, climatic, soil and other environmental conditions.

Reducing the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change, and ultimately decreasing the risks associated to food security, requires

integrated and sustainable water management, including the adaptation of cropping systems and management practices adopting an efficient use of both rainfall and irrigation water. The need for such sustainable water management practices is particularly critical considering the steady increase of global population and the limitations on availability of natural resources, particularly in vulnerable agricultural areas where water scarcity is of great importance (Smith, 2000; Pereira, 2017).

Sustainable water management at farm level assumes an enormous relevance, namely in terms of adopting adequate irrigation schedules, that should lead to optimal yields and agricultural and irrigation

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practices that allow reducing but optimizing water use, particularly non-beneficial ones (Pereira et al., 2009, 2012; Jovanovic et al., 2020).

Numerous irrigation scheduling simulation models have been produced and made available to support irrigation decision-making since the 80's as reported in various international conferences (ASAE, 1981, 1985, 1990; Feyen, 1987; Pereira et al., 1992, 1995; Ragab et al., 1996; Smith et al., 1996). The reported irrigation scheduling models were often based upon crop evapotranspiration and yield-water relations proposed in FAO manuals 24 and 33 (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977; Doorenbos and Kassam, 1979). Reported soil water balance (SWB) models include steady state and transient state models. Steady state models solve the law of conservation of mass within a selected time step, generally a day, while transient state models contain the time variable explicitly and computations refer to the fluxes of water within and through the boundaries of the control volume of soil. The latter, highly exigent in terms of data and using mechanistic approaches to simulate soil water processes, often include mechanistic sub-models to simulate plant growth, predict crop yields as influenced by various environmental factors, and to assess the transport of salt, chemicals and pollutants that impact farm water use and sustainability. Steady state SWB models are less exigent in terms of parameterization and, when properly calibrated, are very accurate and easier to use for irrigation scheduling, as well as to assess the impact of changing environmental conditions on crops evapotranspiration and yield, which may be predicted when the model is associated to, or incorporates yield-water functions.

A variety of tools, namely using hyperspectral reflectance data (Melton et al., 2012; Campos et al., 2017; Pôças et al., 2017; Saadi et al., 2018), can be used to support improved irrigation scheduling. More commonly, remote sensing vegetation indices may be used in combination with ground data after integration in current SWB model approaches (Olioso et al., 2005; Er-Raki et al., 2007; Santos et al., 2008; Vazifedoust et al., 2009; Pôças et al., 2015; Thorp et al., 2015; Corbari et al., 2019), although adopting a variety of data and integrative solutions. The current paper is focusing on steady state SWB simulation models having a known software and, mainly, when adopting the FAO56 method to determine ET_c from the reference ET_o and a crop coefficient. Particular attention is given to models that adopt the dual K_c approach due to the relevance of determining transpiration and soil evaporation, the former consisting of the beneficial consumptive use of water.

Considering the vast panoply of innovation tools that support sustainable water use on farms, the overarching aim of this paper is to provide a review of the advances gained in modelling with the FAO56 method in the past two decades. The specific objectives of this paper are: (a) to discuss simple approaches to steady state water balance modelling in contrast with transient state, mechanistic soil water, crop growth and yield models; (b) to provide for an overview on models/software used to improve irrigation scheduling and management, with focus on dual K_c modelling with consideration of water scarcity and saving; c) to show examples of model applications and water use assessment based on the SIMDualKc model; and d) to analyze current trends and opportunities, focusing particularly on real time irrigation scheduling using modern information technologies.

This article consists of various Sections. After the current Introduction, Section 2 refers to main concepts and calculation approaches of the FAO56 method and includes discussions on the one-step approach, transient state modeling, crop growth and yield prediction, and water use indicators. Section 3 presents an overview of SWB models aimed at improving irrigation scheduling and management, and Section 4 focuses on the dual K_c approaches taking the SIMDualKc model as an example for adopting and extending the use of the FAO56 dual K_c approach. Section 5 discusses real time irrigation scheduling and latest developments, namely related to the applications of remote sensing and internet platforms aimed at multi-users, while Section 6 presents the main conclusions and future trends.

2. Reference concepts

2.1. Crop evapotranspiration, crop water requirements and irrigation requirements

The FAO56 method (Allen et al., 1998) uses the simple K_c - ET_o approach to determine crop evapotranspiration as the product of a crop coefficient (K_c) and the grass reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) computed with the FAO Penman-Monteith equation (PM- ET_o). The PM- ET_o equation is derived from the Penman-Monteith (PM) combination equation (Monteith, 1965) when it was parameterized for the standard grass reference crop (Allen et al., 1994a,b, 1998). As analyzed in the next Section, the PM equation is often used for direct calculation of crop ET .

The FAO56 method adopted the concept of standard, optimal crop conditions as the basis for tabularizing the K_c values, which consisted of a main difference to the previous FAO24 method (Pereira et al., 2015a). Thus, K_c and ET_c in FAO56 refer to potential crop ET rates under optimal, well-watered crop production conditions, which often differ from the field and common practice where crop conditions are often not optimal due to insufficient or non-uniform irrigation, low crop density, less adequate soil and agronomic management and/or salinity. The tabulated K_c values in FAO56 or in the review papers (Jensen and Allen, 2016; Pereira et al., 2020a,b,d) refer to the standard climate and need to be adjusted to the local climate (eqs. 62 and 65 of FAO56). The potential ET_c as computed from standard K_c values is then replaced by the actual crop ET , $ET_{c\ act}$, and the standard K_c are replaced by the actual $K_{c\ act}$ values, with $K_{c\ act} = K_s K_c$ where K_s is a stress coefficient due to water deficiency or salinity effects, and that can be extended to other cultivation stresses.

The concept of dual K_c was also adopted in addition to the traditional single one. The single K_c represents averaged soil evaporation (E_s) and crop transpiration (T_c) from a cropped surface for typical frequencies of wetting. However, as noted by in the review by Pereira et al. (2015a), the single K_c only represents typical conditions that can vary with the wetting frequency by precipitation and irrigation, with the type of irrigation practiced and with crop management, namely the inter-row management in row crops. Adopting the concept of dual crop coefficient, $K_c = K_{cb} + K_e$, where K_{cb} is the basal crop coefficient representing primarily plant transpiration and K_e is the evaporation coefficient that represents the contribution of evaporation from soil to total ET , the variation of both E_s and T_c are considered independently. In view of this, the partition of ET_c or $ET_{c\ act}$ into both these components as proposed by FAO56 (Allen et al., 1998, 2005a) allows to better represent field and management issues when acting differently on E_s and T_c . The two stage evaporation model of Ritchie (1972) is adopted for the calculation of K_e , which implies performing an independent water balance of the evaporation top layer of the soil.

The FAO56 method is dealt in detail with the very recent reviews and updates of the single and basal crop coefficients (Pereira et al., 2020a through d). These reviews also focused on the accuracy of diverse ET measurement methods, namely the measurement of changes of soil water, eddy covariance, Bowen ratio energy balance, sap-flow, and remote sensing vegetation indices (Allen et al., 2011b; Pereira et al., 2020a,b).

Crop water requirements (CWR, mm) consist of the seasonal amount of water required by a crop to achieve its potential production under a given environment. CWR correspond to the seasonal potential crop ET (ET_c , mm) and added the seasonal leaching requirement (LR, mm) required to control effects of soil and water salinity in case of cropping in saline soils or when using salty water (including treated wastewater). LR is herein considered as part of the CWR given the importance for the crop yield and the soil environment to adopt appropriate salinity control. Salinity effects and related water management control measures were recently reviewed and discussed by Minhas et al. (2020).

The net irrigation requirements (NIR, mm) consist of the amount of

water that needs to be applied to the crop to fully satisfy its CWR when the water available through precipitation (P , mm), capillary rise (CR , mm) and soil water storage variation (SW_{var} , mm) are insufficient. NIR relative to the crop season, or to any selected time period, is given by the soil water balance as:

$$NIR = CWR - (P + SW_{var} + CR) + DP + RO \quad (1)$$

where, in addition to variables previously defined, DP is deep percolation from the soil root zone (mm) and RO is runoff (mm), with all variables referring to the time period considered for the computation. The gross irrigation requirements (GIR , mm) for any time step is given as:

$$GIR = \frac{NIR + LR}{BWUF} \quad (2)$$

where $BWUF$ is the beneficial water use fraction of the applied irrigation water (Pereira et al., 2012). $BWUF$ is commonly referred as application efficiency when referring to the field, or combined conveyance, distribution and application efficiency when considering the operational losses in the conveyance and distribution canal and/or conduits systems in addition to application on the farm (Burt et al., 1997; Bos et al., 2005; Heermann and Solomon, 2007).

2.2. Computing the crop evapotranspiration: the one-step vs. the two-step approaches

The Penman-Monteith combination equation (Monteith, 1965) may be used for computing crop ET as a one-step approach contrarily to the FAO56 method that adopts the two-step K_c - ET_o product referred above. With the Penman-Monteith combination equation (PM-eq), crop ET is computed using the aerodynamic and bulk surface resistances of the crop; differently, with the FAO method crop ET is given as the product of the grass reference ET (ET_o) by the crop coefficient (K_c). K_c represents the integrated differences between the considered crop and the reference crop in terms of aerodynamic and bulk surface resistances. ET_o is derived from the PM combination equation parameterized for the grass reference crop.

The Penman-Monteith combination equation (Monteith, 1965) is generally written as

$$ET = \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{\Delta (R_n - G) + \rho c_p (e_s - e_a)/r_a}{\Delta + \gamma (1 + r_s/r_a)} \quad (3)$$

where λ is the latent heat of vaporization [MJ kg^{-1}], $R_n - G$ is the net balance of energy available at the surface [$\text{MJ m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$], $(e_s - e_a)$ represents the vapor pressure deficit (VPD) of air at the reference (weather measurement) height [kPa], ρ is mean air density [kg m^{-3}], c_p is specific heat of air at constant pressure [$\text{MJ kg}^{-1} \text{°C}^{-1}$], Δ represents the slope of the saturation vapor pressure-temperature relationship at mean air temperature [kPa °C^{-1}], γ is the psychrometric constant [kPa °C^{-1}], r_s is the bulk surface resistance [s m^{-1}], and r_a is the aerodynamic resistance [s m^{-1}]. The transfer of heat and vapor from the evaporative surface into the air in the turbulent layer above a canopy is determined by the aerodynamic resistance r_a between the surface and the reference level above the canopy. That transfer is determined by the wind speed, the height of wind speed, air temperature and air humidity measurements, as well as crop height and canopy architecture (Perrier, 1982). The surface resistance r_s for full-cover canopies is often expressed as a function of the stomatal resistance of a well-illuminated leaf (r_l) and of the effective leaf area index (LAI_{eff}).

The use of the PM-eq for prediction of crop water requirements is difficult because crop height and canopy architecture change throughout the crop cycle, thus changing the framework for computing r_a and r_s , which also changes with r_l , thus with leaf age and water availability conditions, as well as with LAI_{eff} . In addition, for the same crop, r_a and r_s are influenced by differences among varieties, and crop management and irrigation practices. Moreover, resistances r_l and r_s are

influenced by the climate and water availability, with r_s increasing when soil water availability limits ET, the VPD increases and r_a is higher; r_s decreases when the energy available at the surface increases. According to Alves et al. (1998) and Alves and Pereira (2000), r_s may be expressed as dependent of r_a and of the weather variables as

$$r_s = r_a \left(\frac{\Delta}{\gamma} \beta - 1 \right) + (1 + \beta) \frac{\rho c_p VPD}{\gamma (R_n - G)} \quad (4)$$

where β is the Bowen ratio (the ratio between the sensible and latent heat fluxes). In this equation β plays the role of a water-stress indicator. This equation illustrates that the weather variables interact and their influences are inter-dependent, which adds to the difficulties in appropriately selecting r_s , thus creating challenges in applying the PM-eq or “multi-layer” resistance equations such as the two-source Shuttleworth and Wallace (SW) equation (Shuttleworth and Wallace, 1985).

Various applications of the PM-eq (Eq. 3) are reported in the literature and they show that the SWB is not required to consider water stress impacts since the parameterization of Eq. 3 takes into account the water stress, e.g. through the consideration of stomatal conductance or predawn leaf water potential (Rana et al., 1997, 2001; Zhang et al., 2011). However, Ortega-Farias et al. (2004, 2006) performed the adjustment to water stress using a normalized soil water factor, similar to the stress coefficient K_s described in the next Section, which computation requires a simple SWB. A few studies compared the PM-eq with the K_c - ET_o approach (Lovelli et al., 2008; Irmak and Mutiibwa, 2009). The accuracy of ET estimates depends upon the parameterization of the PM-eq. The one-step PM and SW equations are excellent for ET simulation but they are basically used in research, while the two-step K_c - ET_o is used both in research and to support field practice as per the recent reviews by Pereira et al. (2020a,b) and Rallo et al. (2020).

The PM-eq (Eq. 3) is the base for the PM- ET_o equation (Allen et al., 1994a,b, 1998), which for daily time steps computation takes the form

$$ET_o = \frac{0.408 \Delta (R_n - G) + \gamma \frac{900}{T + 273} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma (1 + 0.34 u_2)} \quad (5)$$

where, in addition to variables defined for Eq. (3), T is mean daily air temperature [°C] and u_2 is wind speed [m s^{-1}], with measurements at 2 m height. This represents a hypothetical crop with an assumed height of 0.12 m having a surface resistance of 70 s m^{-1} and an albedo of 0.23, closely resembling an extensive surface of green grass of uniform height, actively growing and adequately watered. This equation is also parameterized for hourly time steps (Allen et al., 2006).

K_c represents an integration of the effects of three primary characteristics that distinguish the crop from the reference: crop height (affecting roughness and aerodynamic resistance); crop-soil surface resistance (related to leaf area, fraction of ground covered by vegetation, leaf age and condition, degree of stomatal control, and soil surface wetness); and albedo of the crop-soil surface (influenced by the fraction of ground covered by vegetation and soil surface wetness). It is defined through the ratio between potential crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) and the reference ET_o , thus

$$K_c = ET_c / ET_o \quad (6)$$

The challenge, therefore, has been to summarize all referred differences relative to the PM-eq (Eq. 3) between the considered crop and the reference crop to just one parameter, K_c . Although, it was demonstrated (Pereira et al., 1999) that K_c values relate intimately with the ratios between r_a and r_s of the considered crop and the reference crop, which makes K_c a non-purely empirical parameter but a deterministic one. Though when using the two-step approach to compute crop ET, it is possible to achieve highly accurate estimation of crop ET, close to the accuracy obtained with the one-step PM-eq, despite the high requirements of the latter in terms of parameterization (Ortega-Farias et al., 2006; Lovelli et al., 2008; Irmak and Mutiibwa, 2009).

2.3. Soil water balance: the FAO56 method

With the objective of managing irrigation in the day to day practice, instead of Eq. 1, the daily soil water balance applied to the entire root zone (Allen et al., 1998, 2007) may be expressed through computing the soil water depletion at the end of every day ($D_{r,i}$, mm), which is given as:

$$D_{r,i} = D_{r,i-1} - (P_i - RO_i) - I_i - CR_i + ET_{c,act,i} + DP_i \quad (7)$$

where $D_{r,i-1}$ is the root zone depletion at the end of previous day $i-1$ (mm), P_i is precipitation (mm), RO_i is runoff (mm), I_i is the net irrigation depth that infiltrates the soil (mm), CR_i is capillary rise from the shallow groundwater table (mm), $ET_{c,act,i}$ is the actual crop evapotranspiration (mm), and DP_i is deep percolation through the bottom of the root zone (mm), with all terms referring to day i . $ET_{c,act}$ refers to both optimal and suboptimal crop and irrigation conditions, i.e., under full or deficit irrigation and/or diverse cropping practices.

Solving the water balance equation (Eq. 7) requires soil water content observations (or their estimation from observed soil matric potential), which allow to estimate the root zone depletion D_r . A computational algorithm is required to perform a daily SWB, which is based upon the knowledge of soil hydraulic properties, the field capacity and wilting point (θ_{FC} and θ_{WP} , $m^3 m^{-3}$) of various soil layers down to the bottom of the root zone. To estimate runoff, deep percolation and capillary rise, appropriate algorithms are required as discussed by Liu et al. (2006) and Allen et al. (2007). RO , DP and CR cannot be just estimated when an accurate SWB is to be performed, thus appropriate computational approaches are required, including simple spreadsheet applications to just support irrigation scheduling.

$ET_{c,act}$ is computed as:

$$ET_{c,act} = K_s K_c ET_o = (K_s K_{cb} + K_e) ET_o \quad (8)$$

which requires knowing the standard values of K_c and/or K_{cb} and the daily estimation of the stress coefficient K_s , as well as the adjustment to climate of standard $K_{c,mid}$, $K_{c,end}$, $K_{cb,mid}$ and $K_{cb,end}$ values (eqs. 62 and 65 of FAO56). $K_{c,ini}$ and $K_{cb,ini}$ values have to be determined as recommended by Allen et al. (1998, 2005a, 2005b). Indicative K_c and K_{cb} values are tabulated by Allen et al. (1998), Allen and Pereira (2009), Jensen and Allen (2016) and updated by Pereira et al. (2020a,b) and Rallo et al. (2020).

FAO56 expressed K_s as a linear function of root zone depletion D_r when depletion exceeds the readily available water, RAW (mm), in the root zone, thus:

$$K_s = \frac{TAW - D_r}{TAW - RAW} = \frac{TAW - D_r}{(1 - p)TAW} \quad \text{for } D_r > RAW, \quad (9a)$$

$$K_s = 1 \quad \text{for } D_r \leq RAW \quad (9b)$$

where TAW and RAW are, respectively, the total and readily available soil water (mm), and p is the soil water depletion fraction for no stress (Allen et al., 1998). TAW is defined as the available soil water stored in the root zone with depth z_r (m), thus computed as $1000 (\theta_{FC} - \theta_{WP}) z_r$, and RAW corresponds to the readily available portion of TAW, thus $RAW = p TAW$. Updated values for the p fractions for vegetable and field crops are tabulated by Pereira et al. (2020a, b). The value for K_s due to salinity stress is discussed in FAO56 (Allen et al., 1998) and in the review paper by Minhas et al. (2020).

Referring to Eq. 9, it may be deduced that when no water stress occurs ($K_s = 1.0$) then $\theta \geq \theta_p$, i.e. the soil water content is not below the threshold θ_p , which corresponds to the soil water content when the soil water depletion equals the depletion fraction p for no stress [0 - 1]. Therefore, θ_p is assumed as the soil water content threshold for no-stress or full irrigation:

$$\theta_p = (1 - p) (\theta_{FC} - \theta_{WP}) \quad (10a)$$

A management allowed depletion (MAD) larger than p is selected

when deficit irrigation is adopted, i.e., when the depletion fraction exceeds p . The respective soil water threshold is then $\theta_{MAD} < \theta_p$:

$$\theta_{MAD} = (1 - MAD)(\theta_{FC} - \theta_{WP}) \quad (10b)$$

Examples on using these thresholds are given in Section 4.4.

When adopting the dual K_c approach, it is required to separately compute K_{cb} and K_e and two SWB are required, the one relative to the root zone for computing transpiration, the other relative to the top soil layer, from where evaporation occurs, to compute soil evaporation. A spreadsheet calculator was provided in Annex 8 of FAO56 (Allen et al., 1998). The computation of K_e is based upon the assumption that evaporation from the soil is governed by the amount of water available in the upper soil layer from where water evaporates, and the amount of energy available at the soil surface. The latter depends upon the portion of wetted ground surface exposed to radiation and the portion of total energy consumed by transpiration. K_e is then calculated as: (11)

$$K_e = K_r (K_{c,max} - K_{cb}) \leq f_{ew} K_{c,max} \quad (11)$$

where K_r is the evaporation reduction coefficient [0-1], f_{ew} is the fraction of soil surface wetted and exposed to solar radiation, K_{cb} is the basal crop coefficient representing transpiration, and $K_{c,max}$ is the maximum value for K_c following rain or irrigation (Allen et al., 1998, 2005a). $K_{c,max}$ depends upon mid-season climate, through the wind speed u_2 ($m s^{-1}$) and the minimum relative humidity RH_{min} (%), and upon crop height h (m):

$$K_{c,max} = \max \left\{ \left\{ 1.2 + 0.04 (u_2 - 2) - 0.004 (RH_{min} - 45) \left(\frac{h}{3} \right)^{0.3} \right\}, K_{cb} + 0.05 \right\} \quad (12)$$

where $u_2 = 2 m s^{-1}$ and $RH_{min} = 45 \%$ characterize the standard climate (Allen et al., 1998). The depth of water depleted from the f_{ew} fraction of soil wetted and exposed (D_e , mm), is computed from the daily water balance of the upper 0.10 to 0.15 m of the soil as

$$D_{e,i} = D_{e,i-1} - (P_i - RO_i) - \frac{I_{n,i}}{f_w} + \left(\frac{K_e ET_o}{f_{ew}} \right)_i + T_{s,i} \quad (13)$$

where the subscript i refers to the day of estimation, P_i is the precipitation [mm], RO_i is runoff [mm], I_i is the net irrigation depth [mm] that infiltrates the soil in the wetted fraction f_w , $(K_e ET_o / f_{ew})_i$ is the evaporation from the f_{ew} fraction of the exposed soil surface [mm], and $T_{s,i}$ is the transpiration from the f_w fraction of the evaporating soil layer [mm]. When D_e exceeds the readily evaporable water (REW), the evaporation rate decreases in proportion to the remaining water. Therefore, K_r (Eq. 11) is calculated as:

$$K_r = 1 \quad \text{for } D_e \leq REW \quad (14a)$$

$$K_r = \frac{TEW - D_e}{TEW - REW} \quad \text{for } D_e > REW \quad (14b)$$

where REW and TEW are respectively the readily and total evaporable water in the soil evaporation layer of depth z_e (m), which depend upon the soil textural and hydraulic characteristics of that soil layer. Further details on the water balance of the evaporation layer are discussed by Allen et al. (1998, 2005a) and Rosa et al. (2012a, b).

When the complete soil surface is fully wetted by precipitation or irrigation, the fraction f_{ew} consists of the fraction of ground non-shaded by the vegetation ($1 - f_c$), thus $f_{ew,p} = 1 - f_c$, where f_c is the average fraction covered by vegetation [0 - 1.0]. When only a fraction of the soil surface is wetted by irrigation, $f_{ew,i} = \min(1 - f_c, f_w)$. These differences in f_{ew} , thus in $f_{ew} K_{c,max}$ (Eq. 11), evidence that it is required to compute separately K_e for the cases when rainfall and irrigation fully wet the ground, or when irrigation only partially wets the soil, e.g. under drip or furrow irrigation. Different f_{ew} fractions then occur. A weighing coefficient for partitioning the energy available for soil evaporation depending upon f_c and f_w (Allen et al., 2005a, b; Rosa et al., 2012a) eases the daily K_e computation.

The fraction f_c should be observed in the field as reviewed by Pereira et al. (2020c); otherwise, it may be estimated according to Allen et al. (1998) as:

$$f_c = \left(\frac{K_{cb} - K_{c \min}}{K_{c \max} - K_{c \min}} \right)^{1+0.5h} \quad (15)$$

where $K_{c \min}$ is the minimum K_c for dry, bare soil, generally 0.15. The exponent " $1 + 0.5h$ " represents the effect of plant height on shading the soil and increasing the K_{cb} given a specific value for f_c . ($K_{cb} - K_{c \min}$) \geq 0.01 for numerical stability.

Eq. 11 is the base for partitioning ET. On the one hand, it shows that when the crop develops, from the initial to the mid-season stage, K_{cb} increases and the difference $K_{c \max} - K_{cb}$ therefore decreases, as well as the fraction f_{ew} since f_c also increases. Therefore, K_e decreases as much as K_{cb} and f_c increase. Contrarily, during the late season K_e increases because K_{cb} and f_c decrease. The rates of K_{cb} and f_c variation, thus of K_e decrease or increase, change from a crop to another and with the management practices, with K_{cb} varying also with water and salinity stress (K_s , Eq. 9). On the other hand, K_e varies with the water amount available for evaporation, which depends upon K_r with the irrigation method and frequency of irrigation. The advantage of the adopted approach results from combining the variation of K_{cb} and K_e and adopting $K_{c \max}$ as the upper limit for $K_{cb} + K_e$. Therefore, there is the need for performing daily the water balance of the soil evaporation layer in addition to the root zone water balance, which increases the accuracy of computations. A discussion comparing the ET partition using the FAO56 dual K_c approach with that used in the popular AquaCrop model has been presented by Pereira et al. (2015b), which highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the FAO56 dual K_c approach. As referred by DeJonge and Thorp (2017), reported results with maize and cotton have shown that crop coefficient simulations with the dual "ET_o- K_{cb} " method better mimicked theoretical behavior, including spikes in the soil evaporation coefficient (K_e) due to irrigation and rainfall events and basal crop coefficient response as associated with simulated crop growth." Consequently, the FAO56 approach has been implemented with the DSSAT Crop System Model (DeJonge and Thorp, 2017).

2.4. Soil water balance: transient state models

Mechanistic approaches to the SWB commonly compute variably-saturated water flow as described by Richards' equation:

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[K(h) \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} - K(h) \right] - S(z, t) \quad (16)$$

where θ is the volumetric soil water content [$L^3 L^{-3}$], t is time [T], z is the vertical space coordinate [L], h is the pressure head [L], K is the hydraulic conductivity [$L T^{-1}$], and S is the sink term accounting for water uptake by plant roots [$L^3 L^{-3} T^{-1}$]. The unsaturated soil hydraulic properties are often described with the van Genuchten-Mualem functional relationships (van Genuchten, 1980). These relationships require appropriate calibration.

The sink term, S , may be calculated using the Feddes et al. (1978) approach where the potential transpiration rate, T_p [$L T^{-1}$], is distributed over the root zone using the normalized root density distribution function, $\beta(z, t)$ [L^{-1}], and multiplied by the dimensionless stress response function, $\alpha(h, h_\phi, z, t)$, that accounts for water and osmotic stresses. In HYDRUS-1D (Šimůnek and Hopmans, 2009; Ramos et al., 2011) we have:

$$S(h, h_\phi, z, t) = \alpha(h, h_\phi, z, t) S_p(z, t) = \alpha(h, h_\phi, z, t) \beta(z, t) T_p(z) \quad (17)$$

where $S_p(z, t)$ and $S(h, h_\phi, z, t)$ are the potential and actual volumes of water removed from unit volume of soil per unit of time [$L^3 L^{-3} T^{-1}$], respectively, and $\alpha(h, h_\phi, z, t)$ is a prescribed dimensionless function of the soil water (h) and osmotic (h_ϕ) pressure heads ($0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$). The

actual transpiration rate, T_a [$L T^{-1}$], is obtained by integrating Eq. (13) over the root domain L_R :

$$T_a = \int_{L_R} S(h, h_\phi, z, t) dz = T_p \int_{L_R} \alpha(h, h_\phi, z, t) \beta(z, t) dz \quad (18)$$

It is generally assumed that the potential root water uptake is reduced when water stress occurs due to deficit irrigation and/or osmotic potential resulting from soil salinity or the use of saline irrigation waters. While the Richards' equation is commonly adopted in a variety of models, the sink term may be different from a model to another. For solving the Richards' equation, the formulation of the boundary conditions may be diverse. In SWAP (Vazifedoust et al., 2008; Xu et al., 2013), the upper boundary condition is determined by the fluxes of potential evapotranspiration computed with the PM-eq (Eq. 3). The model does not use the FAO56 method but it allows computing the actual K_c (Xu et al., 2013). Differently, with HYDRUS, the K_c -ET_o approach is often used to define the potential ET flux at the upper boundary (Ramos et al., 2011); alternatively, Ramos et al. (2012) used the sum K_{cb} -ET_o and K_e -ET_o with K_{cb} and K_e obtained with a dual K_c partition tool. Transient state models may be calibrated purposefully for scheduling irrigation under selected conditions, e.g. the model SWB-2D for drip irrigated hedgerow orchards (Annandale et al., 2003). Transient state models usually perform the partition of ET_{c act} with reference to the crop leaf area index (LAI), particularly when knowing its maximum values, LAI_{max}.

Because transient state models focus on the accurate simulation of water fluxes within and through the boundaries of the soil root zone, these models accurately compute DP and CR and, often also RO. When applied to rice, they can also simulate water depth in the paddies (Bhadra et al., 2013). These models may be used to parameterize steady state SWB models, e.g. the WAVE model was used to define the parametric DP and CR equations adopted in the model ISAREG (Liu et al., 2006) and later in SIMDualKc. Transient state models, since they are mechanistic models that accurately simulate the dynamics of transpiration, are commonly integrated with crop growth and yield models, e.g. SWACROP (Kabat et al., 1992) and SWATRER-SUCROS (Xevi and Feyen, 1992). Currently, coupling of transient state and crop growth and yield models is commonly adopted, e.g. WOFOST and HYDRUS-1D (Zhou et al., 2012) or SWAP and EPIC (Xu et al., 2013).

The advantage of transient state models is that soil water processes can be accurately described mechanistically, e.g. infiltration and water redistribution, root water uptake, deep percolation and capillary rise. However, the inputs of soil hydraulic properties, such as the soil water retention and permeability curves (respectively $\theta(h)$ and $K(h)$ curves), are much more exigent than for simpler SWB models in terms of data acquisition and $\theta(h)$ and $K(h)$ calibration. Often, the inverse model simulation needs to be adopted for their calibration before application. In addition, the vegetation parameters needed are much more complex than for FAO56-based SWB models. Therefore, these models are hard to parameterize and calibrate resulting more suitable for agronomic and irrigation research, and when assessing nitrates, chemicals and salinity dynamics in relation to crop growth and yield. Differently, the SWB models adopting the FAO56 methods are easier to use and appropriate to support practical irrigation scheduling and planning, as well as to assess the performance of irrigation management options. Along this line, the crop simulation models DSSAT-CSM, which basically require an accurate prediction of transpiration to predict biomass and yield accurately, recently adopted the FAO56 approaches (DeJonge and Thorp, 2017), namely the grass reference ET_o and the FAO56 dual K_c approach.

2.5. Crop yields prediction and performance indicators for irrigation scheduling

Knowledge of yield responses to water is required to construct irrigation scheduling models, namely aiming at developing appropriate

irrigation schedules that cope with the variability of climatic conditions, water availability limitations, and the need to improve yields and economic returns. Crop growth models may then be used to predict biomass and yields in combination with predicted or assessed crop and irrigation management practices. The DSSAT-CSM models are often used for assessing yields when comparing irrigation management options (DeJonge et al., 2012; Thorp et al., 2014). By recently adopting the FAO56 K_{cb} - ET_o approach (Thorp et al., 2017), their use for assessing irrigation management options resulted easier to interpret. The crop growth and yield SWB AquaCrop (Raes et al., 2016) is also commonly used but, contrarily to the DSSAT models, its approach to calculating ET diverges from the FAO56 method. Another approach consists of coupling a crop model with a transient state model. e.g. WOFOST and HYDRUS-1D (Zhou et al., 2012) or SWAP and EPIC (Xu et al., 2013). These models may be very demanding in terms of parameterization and input data, but they are suitable when dealing with complex hydrologic and water quality conditions.

Simple yield prediction approaches, such as the one by Jensen (1968), consist of a multiplicative parametric function that combines the effects of limited soil water on yield at various crop growth stages. Hanks (1974) developed the model PLANTGRO assuming that total dry matter production is directly proportional to the seasonal transpiration. For grain yield predictions, Hanks (1974) adapted the Jensen (1968) model and developed a multi-stage model (Hanks and Hill, 1980), while Stewart et al. (1977) assumed a linear dependence of the relative yield deficit from the relative evapotranspiration deficit, which is described as:

$$1 - \frac{Y_a}{Y_m} = K_y \left(1 - \frac{ET_{c,act}}{ET_c}\right) \quad (19)$$

where K_y is the yield response factor, Y_a and Y_m are, respectively, the actual and maximum (potential) yields (kg ha^{-1}), and $ET_{c,act}$ and ET_c are, respectively, the actual and potential crop evapotranspiration (mm) corresponding to the yields Y_a and Y_m . Y_m may be observed or estimated. $ET_{c,act}$ and ET_c may be observed or computed with a SWB model. K_y values are tabulated for a wide range of crops (Doorenbos and Kassam, 1979) and they were updated recently (Minhas et al., 2020). Stewart et al. (1977) also proposed a multiple linear phasic model to account for the effects of water deficit during the vegetative, flowering and maturation stages using specific yield response factors (β_i) for each stage i , which were tabulated by Doorenbos and Kassam (1979).

Considering that transpiration is the ET component directly responsible for yield formation, and that various models perform the partition of ET, hence estimating transpiration, a modified version of Stewart's model (Paredes et al., 2014) may be used to estimate Y_a :

$$\hat{Y}_a = Y_m - \frac{Y_m K_y (T_c - T_{c,act})}{T_c} \quad (20)$$

where $T_{c,act}$ and T_c are, respectively, the seasonal actual and potential crop transpiration (mm), thus replacing ET in Eq. (19). Research has shown that both Stewart's global and phasic models predict yields with appropriate accuracy for evaluating irrigation schedules, namely when using Eq. (20) with $T_{c,act}$ data computed with the SIMDualKc model. Fig. 1a shows that maize yield predictions with Eq. (20) match well the yields observed in experiments carried out in both Portugal and Uruguay (Paredes et al., 2014; Giménez et al., 2016), and Fig. 1b shows a similar match of soybean yields relative to experiments developed in China and Uruguay (Wei et al., 2015; Giménez et al., 2017).

Water scarcity and global change lead irrigation water use to essentially aim at increased water productivity, water conservation and water saving. Water conservation refers to every policy, managerial measure, or user practice that aims at conserving or preserving the water resources and combating its degradation, namely focusing on its quality, while water saving aims at limiting or controlling the water demand and use, thus avoiding wastes and the misuse of water (Pereira et al., 2012; Pereira, 2017). A comprehensive analysis on water conservation and saving measures and practices for a variety of agricultural uses was presented by Pereira et al. (2009, 2012) and Jovanovic et al. (2020).

Water productivity in agriculture (WP, kg m^{-3}), also known as water use efficiency, may be generically defined as the ratio between the actual crop yield achieved (Y_a) and the corresponding water use, which may refer to the total water use (TWU), hence including rainfall, to the irrigation water use (IWU), to the consumptive use ($ET_{c,act}$), or just to crop transpiration ($T_{c,act}$). Therefore, different indicators result to assess diverse irrigation scheduling scenarios:

$$WP_{total} = \frac{Y_a}{TWU} = \frac{Y_a}{P + CR + \Delta SW + I} \quad (21)$$

$$WP_{Irrig} = \frac{Y_a}{IWU} \quad (22)$$

$$WP_{ET} = \frac{Y_a}{ET_{c,act}} \quad (23)$$

$$WP_{Tc} = \frac{Y_a}{T_{c,act}} \quad (24)$$

where P is rainfall, CR is capillary rise or groundwater contribution, ΔSW is the variation in soil water storage in the root zone from planting to harvesting, I is the amount of irrigation, $ET_{c,act}$ is the actual crop evapotranspiration, and $T_{c,act}$ is the actual crop transpiration, all expressed in m^3 and referring to the crop season. Y_a in Eqs. (21) through

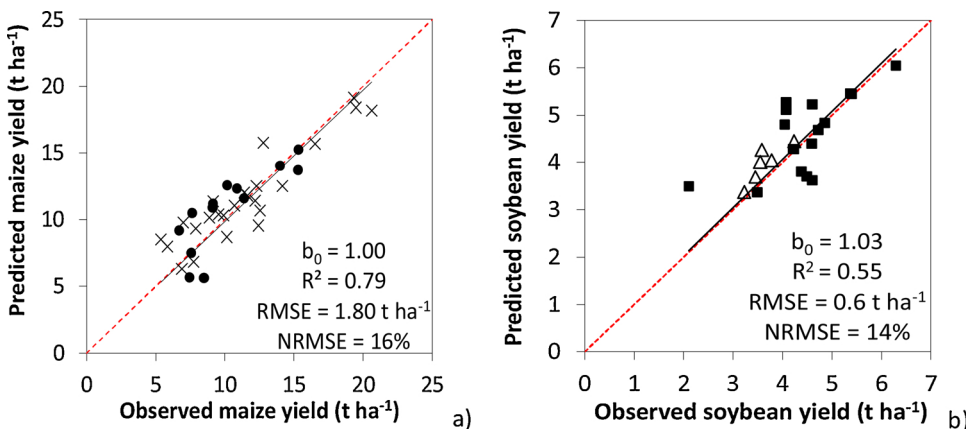


Fig. 1. Observed vs. predicted yield using the modified Stewart equation (Eq. 16) with transpiration data derived from field observations using the SIMDualKc model for (a) maize and (b) soybean (b_0 - regression coefficient of a linear regression forced to the origin; R^2 - coefficient of determination of the ordinary least squares regression, RMSE - root mean square error, NRMSE - normalized root mean square error).

(x) Data from Paredes et al. (2014)
(●) Data from Giménez et al. (2016)

(■) Data from Wei et al. (2015)
(Δ) Data from Giménez et al. (2017)

(24) may be observed, or may be estimated with a crop growth and yield model or with a simple water-yield parametric function as reported above. The meaning of indicators in Eqs. (21)–(24) is necessarily different and indicators should be selected considering the actual farming objectives, the respective implications in terms of resource, environment and climate change, and the data availability. An application of similar WP concepts to olive orchards, including a related economic analysis, was recently discussed by Fernández et al. (2020).

Improving WP could lead to water saving in irrigation but it requires the consideration of various factors. WP may be increased by minimizing the non-beneficial water uses such as percolation through the bottom of the root zone, runoff out of the irrigated fields, and losses by evaporation and wind drift in sprinkling. A high WP could be attained when increasing yields but, often, a higher WP is obtained when the crop is deliberately under-irrigated, thus when water stress is allowed in some less-sensitive crop stages; nevertheless, a yield reduction will then occur.

3. Overview of models aimed at improved irrigation scheduling

3.1. Soil water balance simulation models from FAO24 to FAO56

Many models have been proposed since the early 1980's following the publication of FAO24 (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977), which has been the landmark in the domain of crop water requirements and irrigation scheduling.

Model papers considered herein limit to those having an identified software, adequate reference to calibration and/or validation, and not referring to single uses only. In addition, since the objectives of the current review refer to FAO56 with focusing on the dual K_c approach and considering that transient state models are dealt in Section 2.4, the reviewed SWB refer to models using a K_c approach, mainly referring to FAO24 and to FAO56.

Numerous SWB models have been developed since the 1980's as early reviewed by Lascano (1991). Related articles were often presented in research reports or to scientific conferences (ASAE, 1981, 1990; Feyen, 1987; Pereira et al., 1992, 1995; Smith et al., 1996; Ragab et al., 1996). These articles show a great variety of approaches, using the FAO K_c - ET_o and/or transient state models, which received the preference of researchers by that time (Belmans et al., 1983). Developments also included landscape and turf grass irrigation. ET_o equations were diverse because FAO24 (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977) proposed various alternative equations. Howell et al. (1990) presented a first application of the Penman-Monteith grass reference equation proposed by Allen et al. (1989) when a commonly used ET_o equation was the Penman equation. Without a common ET_o definition and equation, standard K_c values could not be defined despite a consolidated set of K_c values was presented in FAO24 (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977) for numerous field, vegetable and woody crops. These authors proposed the well-known segmented FAO K_c curve but various curvilinear approaches were in use (e.g., Wright, 1982; Hill, 1991). However, the segmented K_c curve was adopted by several authors (Howell et al., 1990; Combre and Kamieniarz, 1992; Teixeira and Pereira, 1992).

Single K_c models of the 80's and 90's were often developed for application at farm level and evolved to support farm irrigators' communities. A first model has been developed with CIMIS, the California Irrigation Management Information System (Snyder, 1986), which keeps evolving nowadays and is based on a large grid of weather stations and a very large number of users (<https://cimis.water.ca.gov/> accessed on 27 May 2020) and partners. Among the latter is the Satellite Irrigation Management Support framework (SIMS, Melton et al., 2012, 2020). The model CROPWAT (Smith, 1988, 1992) is paradigmatic since it consisted of a database built from FAO24 data (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977), a supplementary CLIMWAT weather database, a reference ET calculator and a water balance computational tool able to propose an irrigation scheduling calendar for the selected crop, soil and

field. The model was updated after the FAO experts consultation on crop water requirements (Smith et al., 1991) and the publication of FAO 56, and has been successively upgraded. The version CROPWAT 8.0 has been recently released.

BldriCo (Danuso et al., 1995) is updated and is operating with real time weather data to support irrigation farmers of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, Italy. IRRICANNE is an irrigation scheduling simulation model (Combre and Kamieniarz, 1992) designed to support sugarcane producers and was used for many years in the Island of Reunion. The model RENANA (Giannerini, 1995) was applied to support farmers irrigation scheduling in the Emilia-Romagna Region and evolved to a large-scale web based DSS, IRRINET, in use by farmers of various regions of Italy (Mannini et al., 2013), as well as to support irrigation water delivery (Genovesi et al., 2019).

Three models early reported - IRSIS (de Goes Calmon et al., 1992), ISAREG (Teixeira and Pereira, 1992) and PILOTE (Mailhol et al., 1996) - were designed for both research and application in the field practice. IRSIS (Raes et al., 1988) was modified to produce BUDGET (Raes et al., 2006) that was further developed with extensions for improved water balance and yield assessment (Shrestha et al., 2010), then becoming the SWB basis of the crop model AquaCrop (Raes et al., 2016). ISAREG adopted the PM- ET_o equation following the FAO Expert Consultation that decided its adoption (Smith et al., 1991). ISAREG was first modified to support real time farmers advising with the development of RELREG (Teixeira et al., 1995), later turning into a web based DSS, WEBISAREG (Branco et al., 2005), and developing GIS facilities, HYDROGEST (Mateus et al., 2007). However, since the Irrigation Associations did not develop local support to farmers, the model was used essentially for research after adoption of computational tools relative to DP, CR and salinity (Pereira et al., 2007, 2009). It is currently used in several countries, e.g. Brazil (Saraiva et al., 2017), Bulgaria (Popova et al., 2014) and China (Zheng et al., 2014). Meanwhile, ISAREG was the base of SIMDualKc (Rosa et al., 2012a), described in the next Section. PILOTE software has been continuously improved and it became a crop model with various capabilities including irrigation and crop management (Mailhol et al., 2004, 2018).

CADSM (Walker et al., 1995) was the first distributed SWB model aimed at computing the aggregated irrigation demand at the command area of a collective irrigation system using the K_c - ET_o approach. It was also one of the first models using the PM- ET_o equation after it was proposed to a wide audience (Allen et al., 1994a,b). Similarly, the combined use of the ISAREG model and the paddy basins simulation model IRRICEP (Paulo et al., 1995) was adopted to simulate the demand hydrographs at the sector level in a collective irrigation system using the FAO methods (Teixeira et al., 1996).

Buchleiter (1995) presented the model SCHED for scheduling irrigations with a center-pivot system. However, this type of approach is currently replaced by precision irrigation software, namely variable rate scheduling with support of wireless sensors (e.g. O'Shaughnessy et al., 2012).

Hess (1996) reported on a microcomputer irrigation-scheduling model to be available for farmers since they were progressively adopting such computing facilities; however, with changes in hardware the approach was abandoned. The SIMDSS (Malano et al., 1996) was developed for practical irrigation scheduling and improved surface irrigation practices aimed at an integrated real-time management for pastures in SE Australia. MARKVAND was a DSS system for farmers use in Denmark, which software provides information on timing and volumes of irrigation as well as on the expected economic returns (Plauborg et al., 1996). Changes in technologies led to abandon these type of models.

Models including the partitioning of ET into transpiration and soil evaporation were rare. The first was reported by Wright (1982) but his pioneer approach aimed at deriving K_{cb} when soil water evaporation could be considered nil, i.e. the soil surface was dry but transpiration was near optimal. The approach applied well to infrequent water

applications but not to highly frequent wettings; however, data reported by this author have been fundamental in developing the FAO56 dual K_c approach (Allen et al., 1998). Tuzet et al. (1992) developed an approach where ET partition was supported by the observed LAI. Many researchers lately followed a LAI approach for partitioning ET. Further developments in using a dual K_c were initiated after publication of FAO56, mainly using its spreadsheet for calculation of K_{cb} and K_e , which still is used at present.

A first SWB model relative to paddy rice using the K_c -ET_o approach, the IRRICEP model, was reported by Paulo et al. (1995). The model required not only the calibration of K_c values but the calibration of soil hydraulic properties determining the computation of percolation adopting a Darcy approach, as well as lateral seepage to downstream paddies and drainage ditches. That model was later used by Mao et al. (2004) adopting the PM-ET_o equation. Singh et al. (2001) modified the model SAWAH to adopt the K_c -ET_o approach and a partition of actual crop ET based upon an empirical exponential function of LAI. Agrawal et al. (2004) developed a Visual Basic SWB model where the K_c -ET_o is used, seepage is computed with the Dupuit approach and percolation is determined with a soil water simulation using partial differential equations distinguishing water ponded conditions and unsaturated conditions when intermittent irrigation is used. Transient state approaches for the ponded and the unsaturated conditions were also used by Khepar et al. (2000) when modeling intermittent paddy irrigation. A different approach is reported by Jeon et al. (2005), who developed PADDIMOD. In this model, surface drainage and percolation are estimated with parametric equations, which require parameters calibration. These referred models, despite posterior to the publication of FAO56, did not adopt the PM-ET_o equation but FAO24 equations.

3.2. Soil water balance simulation models after FAO56

This review focused only on SWB simulation models using the FAO56 K_c -ET_o approach and which calibration and validation procedures are recognizable. Many other publications on SWB models not using the K_c -ET_o method and not adopting the PM-ET_o equation were not considered. The selected SWB models are presented in Table 1 for those using the single time averaged K_c , while Table 2 refers to the SWB models using the FAO56 dual K_c approach (see Section 2.3 above) or a similar approach where LAI replaces f_c .

Single K_c models in Table 1 are diverse in terms of the target crops; these can be single annual crops, e.g. maize, wheat, cotton or paddy rice, or various annuals and/or perennials. They have in common the use of the FAO56 PM-ET_o equation, in some cases also considering alternative temperature based methods, and the use of the stress coefficient K_s (Eq. 9), including modifications for paddies water balance. Models have a variety of base input parameters. Soil base parameters commonly include θ_{FC} and θ_{WP} , but θ_{sat} and K_{sat} may also be included when deep percolation and capillary rise are among the model outputs. Only one model (ISAREG) uses the input of electrical conductivity of the soil saturation extract (EC_e , dS m⁻¹) to compute the ET reduction due to salinity (ET_{salt}) as described in FAO56 and by Minhas et al. (2020). All reported models were calibrated and validated, generally using SWC data, a few using $ET_{c\ act}$ or $T_{c\ act}$ (Consoli et al., 2016; Mancosu et al., 2016), and the ponded water depths in case of paddy rice (de Silva and Rushton, 2008; Inthavong et al., 2011). The model outputs are diverse but all models, in addition to ET, provide DP estimates. Several models also compute RO but CR is only provided by few models (Pereira et al., 2003; Shang and Mao, 2006; Chopart et al., 2007; Boegh et al., 2009; Consoli et al., 2016). Paddy water models outputs refer to the ponded water and to DP, seepage and drainage. References to the possible use of remote sensing data are very limited.

SWB models using the dual K_c approach are referred in Table 2. As for single K_c models, they are diverse in terms of the target crops but most of them can be used with both annual and perennial crops. A few refer to annuals or only to specific crops (wheat, maize, groundnuts and

Table 1
SWB models using the FAO56 time averaged K_c approach.

Reference	Name	Used ET _o equation	Crops applied	Soil water parameters	Calibration, validation with data	Water balance terms	Remote sensing data
Panigrahi and Panda, 2003	n/r	PM-ET _o	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, RO	n/r
Pereira et al., 2003	ISAREG	PM-ET _o , other	Annuals and perennials	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , θ_{sat} , EC_e	SWC	DP, CR, RO, ET _{salt}	n/r
George et al., 2004	ISM	PM-ET _o , other	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, $ET_{c\ act}$	DP, RO	n/r
Raes et al., 2006	BUDGET	PM-ET _o	Annuals and perennials	K_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, $ET_{c\ act}$, Y_a	DP, RO	n/r
Shang and Mao, 2006	n/r	PM-ET _o	Winter wheat	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, CR, RO	n/r
Chopart et al., 2007	OSRI	n/r	Sugar cane	n/r	SWC	DP, CR	n/r
Mandal et al., 2007	n/r	PM-ET _o	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, RO	Yes
de Silva and Rushton, 2008	n/r	PM-ET _o	Paddy rice	TAW, RAW	Ponded water depth	DP, RO, water storage	n/r
Boegh et al., 2009	DAISY	PM-ET _o	Perennials	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , θ_{sat}	SWC	DP, CR, RO	Yes
Inthavong et al., 2011	SWB	PM-ET _o	Paddy rice	Soil water storage	Ponded water depth	Water level, DP, RO	n/r
Chen et al., 2012	CIDSS	PM-ET _o	Cotton	n/r	SWC	DP	n/r
Ma et al., 2013	n/r	PM-ET _o	Winter wheat	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , K_{sat}	SWC	DP	n/r
Andales et al., 2014	WISE	ASCE-ET _o	Maize	n/r	SWC	DP, RO	n/r
Kurmik et al., 2014	swBEWA	PM-ET _o	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, RO	–
Consoli et al., 2016	CRITERIA-1D	PM-ET _o	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , K_{sat}	SWC, $T_{c\ act}$, $ET_{c\ act}$	DP, CR, RO	Yes
Mancosu et al., 2016	SIMETAW #	PM-ET _o	Annuals and perennials	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, $T_{c\ act}$, $ET_{c\ act}$	DP, RO	n/r
López-Urrea et al., 2020	MOPECO	PM-ET _o	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, Y_a	n/r	n/r

In addition to the symbols described in Sections 2.3 and 2.4, the following are used: EC_e – Electrical conductivity of the soil saturation extract; ET_{salt} – Actual crop evapotranspiration affected by salinity; K_{sat} – Soil hydraulic conductivity at saturation. Abbreviations: n/r – not reported.

Table 2
SWB models using the FAO56 dual K_c approach or its modification using LAI data.

Reference	Name	Partition approach	Crops applied	Soil data	Data used for model calibration	WB terms	Remote sensing data
Annandale et al., 1999	SWB	FAO DualKc	Annuals and perennials	$\theta(h)$ or θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, f_c	DP, RO, C _{soil}	n/r
Ragab, 2002	SALTMED	FAO DualKc	Annuals	$\theta(h)$, $K(\theta)$, θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , C _{soil}	SWC, Y _a	DP, CR, C _{soil}	n/r
Mailhol et al., 2004	PILOTE	Using LAI	Annuals	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP	Yes
Sarr et al., 2004	n/r	Using LAI	Groundnut	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP	n/r
Raes et al., 2006	BUDGET	FAO DualKc	Annuals and perennials	K_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, ET _{c act} , Y _a	DP, RO	n/r
Sheikh et al., 2009	BEACH	FAO DualKc	Annuals and perennials	K_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, RO	n/r
Rosa et al., 2012a, b	SIMDualKc	FAO DualKc	Annuals and perennials	θ_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , EC _e	SWC, ET _{c act} , T _{c act}	DP, CR, RO, ET _{soil}	Yes
Yang et al., 2012	RiceWCA	FAO DualKc	Paddy rice	θ_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	Applied water	DP, seep, tail water, and applied water	n/r
Campos et al., 2016	RSWB	FAO DualKc	Perennials	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC, ET _{c act}	DP, RO	Yes
Lollato et al., 2016	SSM	FAO DualKc	Wheat	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, RO	n/r
Raes et al., 2016	AQUACROP	FAO DualKc	Annuals and perennials	K_{sat} , θ_{FC} , θ_{WP} , θ_{sat} , EC _e	SWC, f_c , Y _a	DP, CR, RO, Y _a	n/r
Han et al., 2018	Model-FAO	FAO DualKc	Maize	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP, CR, RO	n/r
Li et al., 2018	WIDSSLI	FAO DualKc	Annual crops	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP	n/r
Olivera-Guerra et al., 2018	FAO-2Kc	FAO DualKc	Wheat	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP	Yes
Helman et al., 2019	Crop RS-Met	FAO DualKc	Wheat	θ_{FC} , θ_{WP}	SWC	DP	Yes

In addition to the symbols described in Sections 2.3 and 2.4, the following are used: C_{soil} – Salt concentration in the soil solution; EC_e – Electrical conductivity of the soil saturation extract; ET_{soil} – Actual crop evapotranspiration affected by salinity; K_{sat} – Soil hydraulic conductivity at saturation. Abbreviations: n/r – not reported; seep – seepage.

paddy rice). All use the PM-ET_o equation and the stress coefficient K_s (Eq. 9), including those modified for paddies. Models have a variety of base soil input parameters. Soil parameters commonly include θ_{FC} and θ_{WP} , a few θ_{sat} and K_{sat}, and some models (Annandale et al., 1999; Ragab, 2002) also have a transient state approach and require $\theta(h)$ and K(θ). Salinity base data on EC_e are used in the AQUACROP and SIMDualKc models, while SALTMED and “SWB” use the salt concentration in the soil water. Models are calibrated and validated with SWC data but some models may be calibrated with ET_{c act} or T_{c act} data (Rosa et al., 2012a, b; Campos et al., 2016); when they also predict actual yields, Y_a data may also be used for calibration (Ragab, 2002; Raes et al., 2012). Model outputs are diverse but all models, in addition to ET_{c act} and T_{c act}, provide for DP while a few also compute RO. The computation of CR is only available from the models SALTMED, AquaCrop, SIMDualKc and the model reported by Han et al. (2018). The paddy rice model RiceWCA (Yang et al., 2012) outputs are different from those referred before and include the predicted applied water, DP, seepage, and tail water runoff. A few models refer to the possibility of using remote sensing-retrieved data. This review recognized that few models are able to compute groundwater contribution from a water table as well as impacts of salinity.

DSSAT crop models using K_c-ET_o with the dual K_c approach (DeJonge and Thorp, 2017) could be added in Table 2 but they are very different from the listed models and rarely used for irrigation scheduling. Farmers’ information models commonly using K_{cb} values derived from remote sensing vegetation indices, such as SIMS (Melton et al., 2012, 2020; Cahn and Johnson, 2017), consist also of a peculiar group of dual K_c models that require mention.

For selecting the best crop irrigation schedules, the SWB models adopt user-friendly software that helps the users to handle data and, often, to compute indicators such as those referred in Section 2.5. Performance scenarios may be the object of ranking, e.g. when DSS approaches adopt multi-criteria analysis as discussed by Darouich et al. (2014, 2017), namely when the selection of irrigation schedules is tied to the performance of the irrigation method. However, the use of multi-criteria analysis is rare in irrigation scheduling and, commonly, only simple comparisons of indicators are used (Paredes et al., 2014, 2017a,b; Pereira et al., 2015b).

4. The dual K_c soil water balance approach using the model SIMDualKc

4.1. Brief presentation of the model

SIMDualKc is a quite unique software model that performs a daily soil water balance at the field scale (Rosa et al., 2012a,b) adopting the dual K_c approach to compute and partition crop ET into T_c and E_g.

Data inputs and model outcomes are described in Fig. 2 where the flowchart of the model is presented. In general, compulsory data inputs are common to other SWB models that adopt the FAO56 dual K_c approach, although requirements may change with the type of algorithms used in computations. Facultative data differ depending upon the specific objectives of the simulation. This is the case for data used to compute runoff, deep percolation, groundwater contribution, as well as effects of mulches and no-till planting, active ground cover, intercropping, and soil and water salinity. Naturally, model outcomes also differ depending on the modelling objectives.

Model calibration consists of adjusting the influential model parameters within their reasonable ranges so that the model results are consistent with available observed data, thus estimation errors are minimized. The process of validation permits the verification of the goodness of fitting when the model is used with the set of calibrated parameters but with different, independent data sets, without tuning such parameters. Calibration and validation of models and appropriate goodness-of-fit indicators are a must for every model as discussed by several authors (e.g., Moriasi et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2012) and by

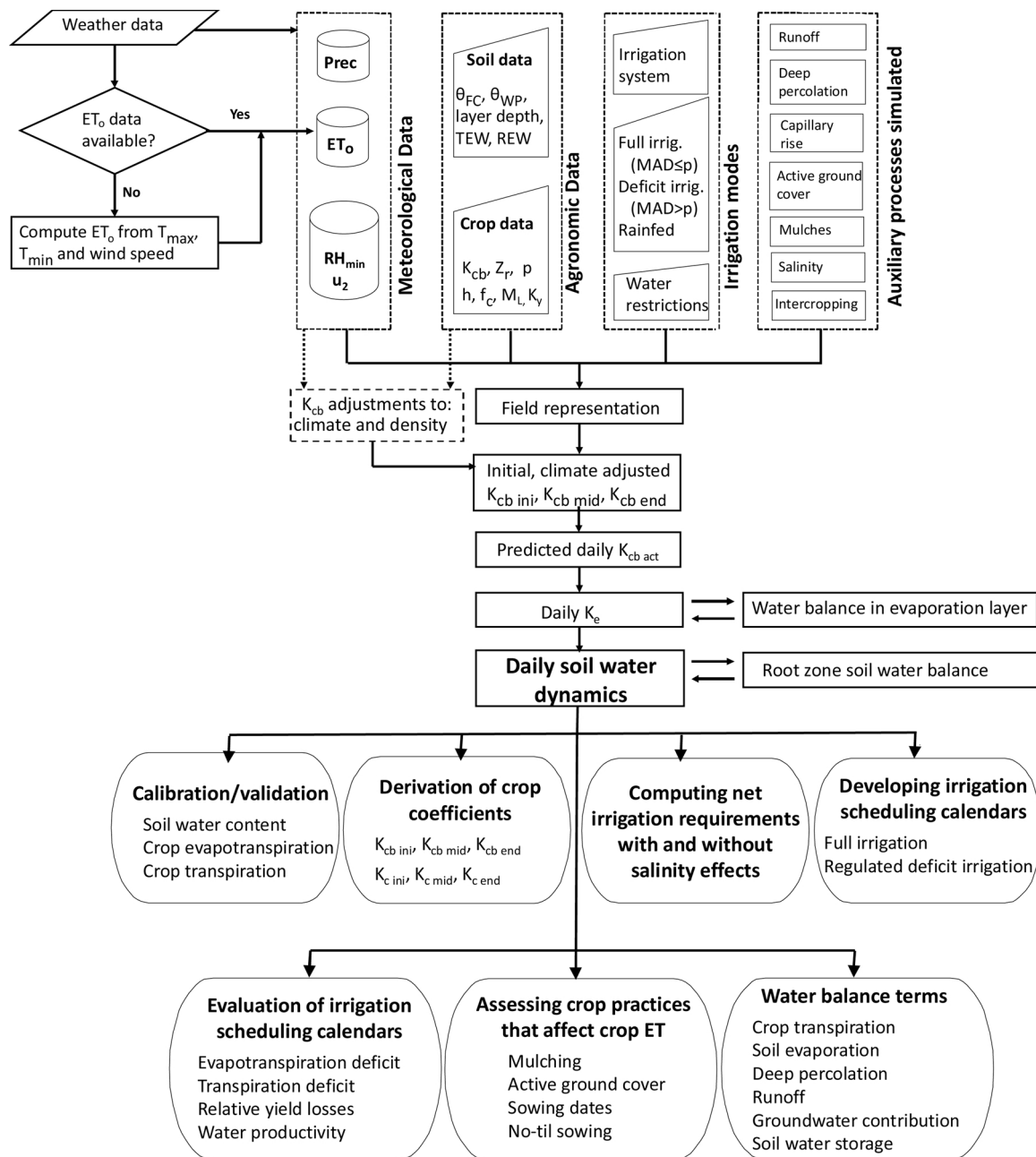


Fig. 2. Simplified flowchart of SIMDualKc model (modified from Rosa et al., 2012a).

Pereira et al. (2015b) relative to SIMDualKc.

The calibration parameters of SIMDualKc consist of: K_{cb} and p relative to the various crop growth stages; Z_e , TEW and REW characterizing the soil evaporation layer; the parameter CN relative to the runoff algorithm; and the parameters relative to the DP and CR parametric functions. Initial sets of these parameters are inputs to the model, which are improved through calibration. Soil water content observations are the most commonly used for calibration, e.g. Fandiño et al. (2012, 2015) for a vineyard and for hop for industry, Zhao et al. (2013) for maize and wheat, Wu et al. (2016) for a groundwater dependent grassland, and Paredes et al. (2017a) relative to pea for industry. Calibration may also be performed by comparing observed eddy covariance ET with model computed $ET_{c\ act}$ for field crops (Zhang et al., 2013; Tian et al., 2016) and citrus orchards (Peddinti and Kambhammettu, 2019), or by comparing observed sap-flow transpiration data with simulated $T_{c\ act}$ (Paço et al., 2012, 2019; Qiu et al., 2015). Descriptions of the calibration and validation processes are

provided in the cited applications.

Various methods may be used to estimate accurately actual crop ET as reviewed by Allen et al. (2011b) and Pereira et al. (2020a,b). Methods include the measurement of the soil water content for deriving ET from the SWB, the measurement of $ET_{c\ act}$ using eddy covariance (EC) or Bowen ratio energy balance (BREB) systems, as well as the measurement of $T_{c\ act}$ with sap-flow systems. All these methods are potentially very accurate as point measurements, and the EC and BREB are used in such a way that their footprint may span a relatively large area representative of the vegetation. EC is receiving the preference of many ET users, but measurements of the soil water content (SWC) and sap-flow continue to be largely used. Fig. 3a shows the comparisons of simulated and observed seasonal SWC data of a wheat crop used to calibrate SIMDualKc, and Fig. 3b shows a similar comparison of simulated wheat $ET_{c\ act}$ with EC observed data, both obtained at the same location in North China plain (Zhang et al., 2013; Zhao et al., 2013). The goodness-of-fit indicators resulted similar, i.e. there was no

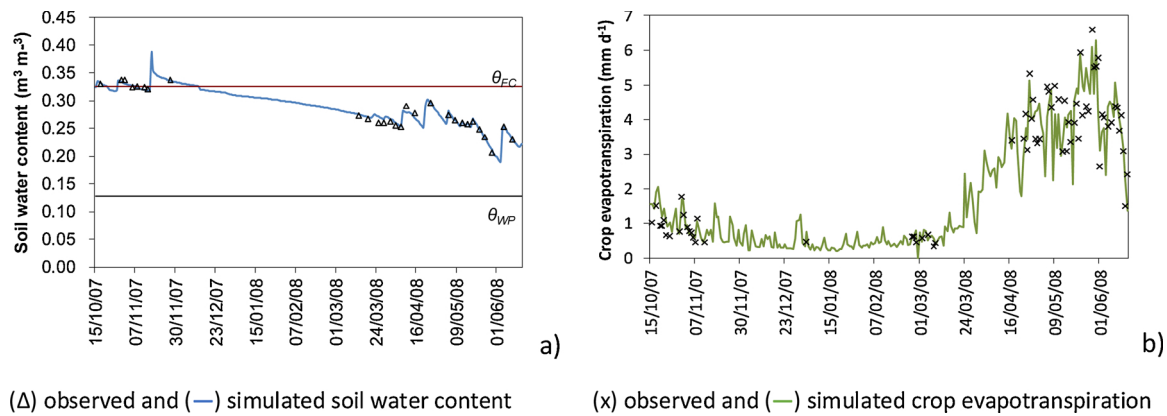


Fig. 3. Comparing two approaches for the calibration of SIMDualKc for winter wheat in North China plain: (a) simulated vs. observed soil water content (adapted from Zhao et al., 2013) and (b) simulated vs. observed $\text{ET}_{c \text{ act}}$ (adapted from Zhang et al., 2013).

advantage of one calibration over the other, which means that a user may select the most convenient approach to calibrate a model if measurements of SWC, $\text{ET}_{c \text{ act}}$ or $T_{c \text{ act}}$ are accurately performed.

4.2. Deriving crop coefficients

Deriving K_{cb} and K_c from SWB simulations is a main capability of SWB models, e.g. SALTMED (Silva et al., 2012), which is quite common for vegetable and field crops as reported in recent reviews (Pereira et al., 2020a,b); however, it is uncommon for fruit trees and vines. In the case of evergreen trees and vines, a full crop coefficient curve requires that, in addition to the K_c and K_{cb} for the initial, mid-season and end-season, the K_c and K_{cb} values for the non-growing period are also known. Moreover, due to climate differences between the growing and non-growing seasons, the K_c and K_{cb} curves may be substantially different. Nevertheless, there are various examples of derivation of K_c and K_{cb} for orchards (e.g., Peddinti and Kambhammettu, 2019).

As an example for evergreen woody crops, a study performed with irrigated olives in southern Portugal (Paço et al., 2019) is analyzed. Crop transpiration was measured with the sap-flow Granier method, which data provided for calibrating SIMDualKc, thus obtaining the best K_{cb} values for the initial, mid-season, end-season and non-growing periods. A few observations of $\text{ET}_{c \text{ act}}$ with an EC system were also used for testing. The K_{cb} curve (Fig. 4) resulted in a FAO segmented curve with higher K_{cb} during the growing season, spring and summer, when irrigation was applied, and smaller K_{cb} in the non-growing period, when transpiration is naturally low. Differently, because it depends on soil evaporation, the

time averaged K_c ($=K_{cb} + K_e$) resulted smaller during the active growing period, when E_s and K_e were low because precipitation was reduced and drip lines were located directly in line with the crop and shaded by the crop canopy, thus irrigation was applied under trees' shadow. Contrarily, K_c was larger in fall and winter, when rainfall occurred (Fig. 4). A segmented K_c curve resulted with low values by the mid-season and a K_{cb} curve with a higher value during the mid-season. The K_c curve changed with rainfall, with $K_{c \text{ mid}}$ and K_c in the non-growing season, which is higher when rainfall was larger (Fig. 4a) and smaller under dry conditions. Contrarily, the standard K_{cb} values did not change. When considering the daily $K_{cb \text{ act}}$ changes occurred depending on the water stress of the olive crop. The daily $K_{c \text{ act}}$ changed a lot, causing the referred changes in the K_c curve.

Deriving K_{cb} and K_c from SWB simulations is also uncommon for forage crops managed with cuttings. The FAO56 approach for K_{cb} and K_c of forages managed with cuttings consists of adopting a segmented curve for each cut (Allen et al., 1998). SIMDualKc has proved appropriate to support the derivation of K_{cb} and K_c under these conditions in an application to Tifton 85 bermudagrass in Santa Maria, Brazil (Paredes et al., 2018b). The cutting treatments were spaced according to selected cumulative growth degree days (CGDD), which varied among treatments. With this approach, shorter time spans between cuttings resulted in summer and longer ones in winter. Results for K_{cb} and K_c with cuttings at CGDD of 248 °C, which refer to six forage cuttings, and 372 °C, with only four cuttings, are presented in Fig. 5a and 5b respectively. The computed time average K_c before the cuttings are 0.96 for the CGDD 248 °C and 0.97 for CGDD 372 °C while the K_c after

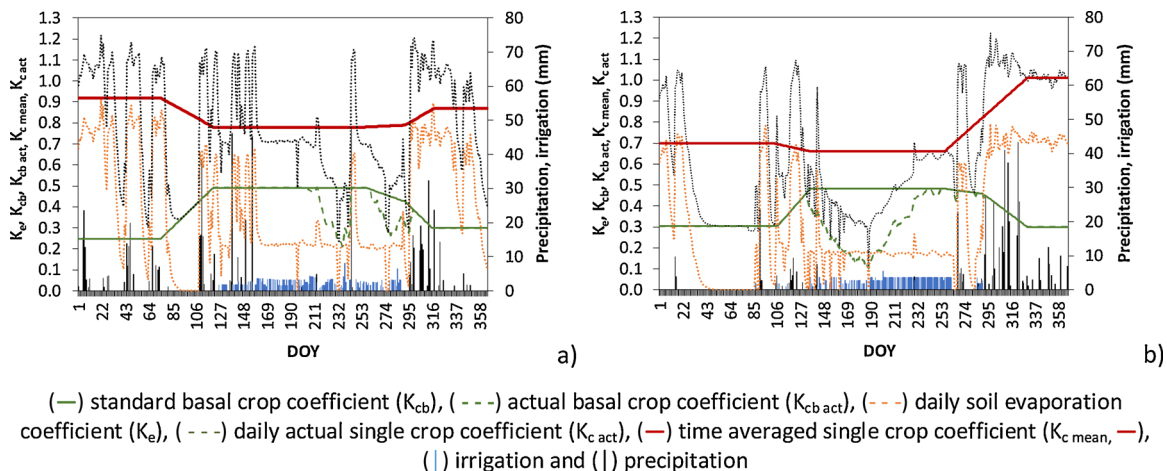


Fig. 4. Standard and actual basal and single crop coefficient and soil evaporation coefficient curves for a super-intensive olive orchard in two contrasting rainfall years: a) wet year and b) dry year (Paço et al., 2019).

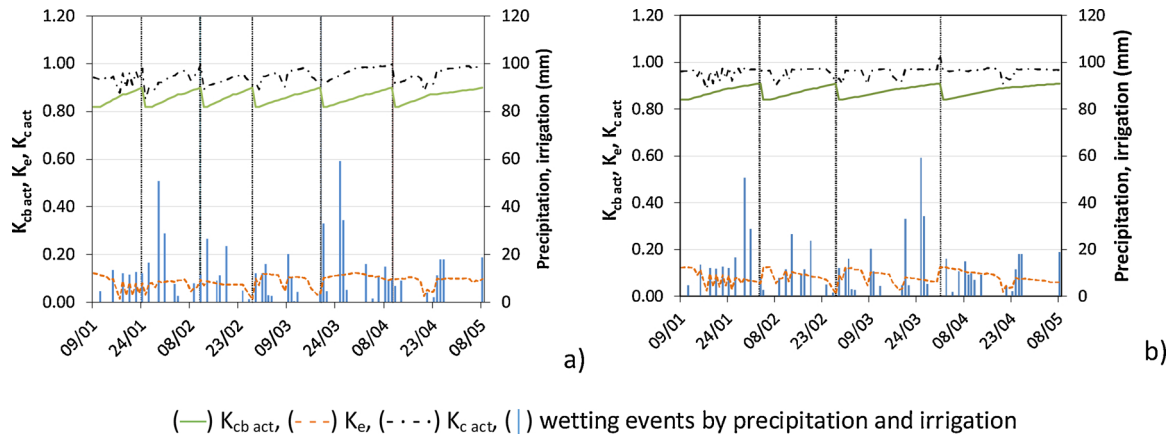


Fig. 5. Actual basal and single crop coefficient ($K_{cb\ act}$ and $K_{c\ act}$) and soil evaporation coefficient (K_e) curves of Tifton 85 bermudagrass during the Summer-Autumn periods of 2016, Santa Maria, Brazil, comparing two treatments where cuttings were performed for cumulative growth degree days of (a) 248 °C and (b) 372 °C (adapted from [Paredes et al., 2018b](#)).

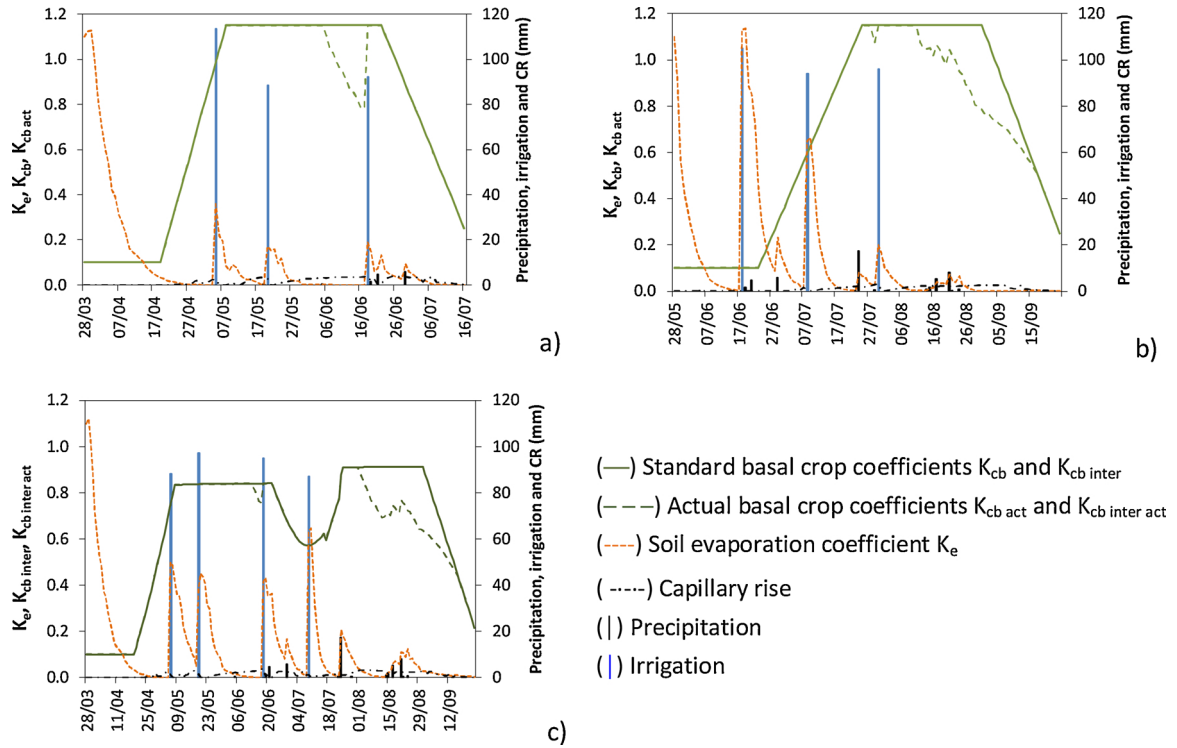


Fig. 6. Standard (K_{cb} , $K_{cb\ inter}$) and actual basal crop coefficient ($K_{cb\ act}$, $K_{cb\ inter\ act}$) and soil evaporation coefficient (K_e) curves relative to: a) wheat (standalone), b) sunflower (standalone), and c) the relay intercropped wheat-sunflower in Hetao, upper Yellow River basin, China, 2011 (adapted from [Miao et al., 2016](#)).

cuttings, when the forage crop is shorter, decreased to 0.92 and 0.95, respectively. Reported time averaged K_c before and after cuttings are close due to abundant precipitation during the crop season. The standard K_{cb} before the cuttings are 0.93 for the treatment with CGDD of 248 °C and 0.94 for CGDD of 372 °C while K_{cb} values after cuttings were respectively 0.83 and 0.84. Values for the standard K_{cb} would be more distinct if the forage height would be smaller after cuttings. Results show that the approach proposed in FAO56 for K_c and K_{cb} curves for forages managed with cuttings was applicable with SIMDualKc.

4.3. ET and crop coefficients of relay inter-cropping

An approach based on light/shadow effects was used to estimate $ET_{c\ act}$ and its partition for crops cultivated in a relay inter-cropping system. The mutual effects of shading by the crops combined in an

inter-crop system were estimated by considering the height of both crops and the fraction of ground covered by each crop throughout the crop season ([Miao et al., 2016](#)). This principle is based upon the approach of [Allen and Pereira \(2009\)](#) to compute K_{cb} for a fruit crop cultivated with active ground cover.

Naming the first planted crop as dominant and the second as the subordinate crop, and considering their interaction, the K_{cb} of the intercrop ($K_{cb\ inter}$) may be estimated daily as ([Miao et al., 2016](#)):

$$K_{cb\ inter} = \max[K_{cb\ sub} + K_{d\ dom}(K_{cb\ dom} - K_{cb\ sub}); K_{cb\ dom} + K_{d\ sub}(K_{cb\ sub} - K_{cb\ dom})] \quad (25)$$

where $K_{cb\ dom}$ and $K_{cb\ sub}$ are, respectively, the K_{cb} values of the dominant and subordinate crops when mono-cropped, and $K_{d\ dom}$ and $K_{d\ sub}$ are the density coefficients of the dominant and subordinate crops. K_d are computed as:

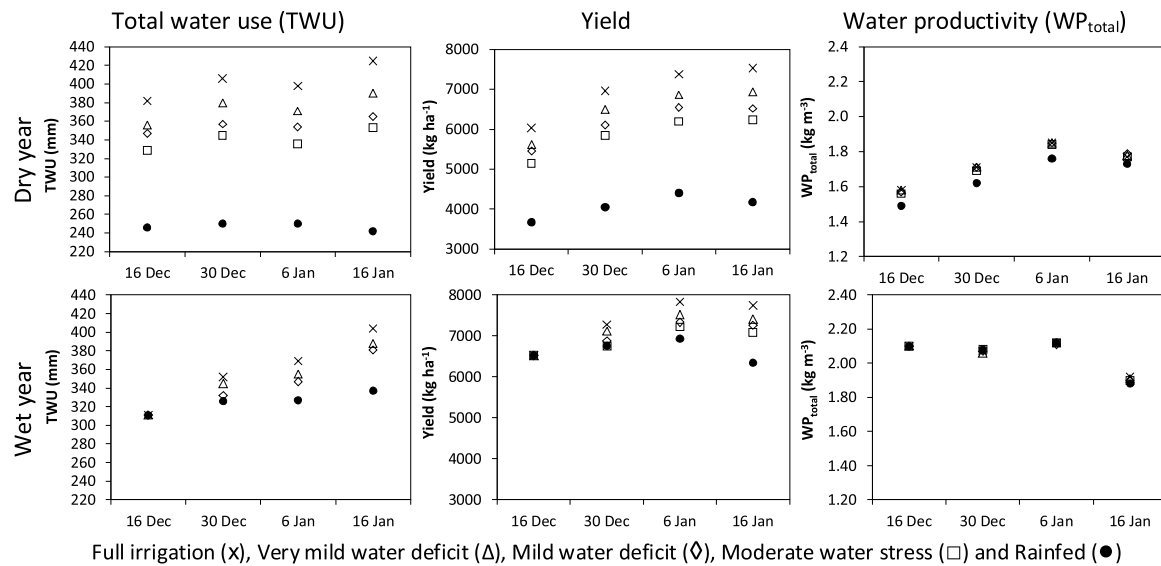


Fig. 7. Barley total water use, yield and water productivity for various sowing dates and alternative irrigation schedules relative to two contrasting rainfall years (adapted from Paredes et al., 2017b).

$$K_{d\text{ dom}} = f_{sc\text{ dom}} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \max(h_{\text{dom}} - h_{\text{sub}}, 0)} \right) \quad (26a)$$

$$K_{d\text{ sub}} = f_{sc\text{ sub}} \left(\frac{1}{1 + \max(h_{\text{sub}} - h_{\text{dom}}, 0)} \right) \quad (26b)$$

where $f_{sc\text{ dom}}$ and $f_{sc\text{ sub}}$ are the fractions of the soil surface cropped with the dominant and the subordinate crops, respectively, and h_{dom} and h_{sub} are the heights of the dominant and subordinate crops, respectively. The max function in Eqs. (25) and (26) aims at considering that the conditions observed at earlier stages, $K_{cb\text{ dom}} > K_{cb\text{ sub}}$ and $h_{\text{dom}} > h_{\text{sub}}$, may change with the growth of the subordinate crop, thus making $K_{cb\text{ sub}} > K_{cb\text{ dom}}$ and $h_{\text{sub}} > h_{\text{dom}}$. For example, this is the case of the wheat-sunflower intercrop, where sunflower develops taller than wheat when the latter matures, thus $K_{cb\text{ sunf}} > K_{cb\text{ wheat}}$ and $h_{\text{sunf}} > h_{\text{wheat}}$.

The application of this methodology to a winter wheat-sunflower relay inter-cropping in Hetao, China, is illustrated in Figs. 6a and b, which show the K_{cb} , $K_{cb\text{ act}}$ and K_e relative to wheat and sunflower mono-cropped, while Fig. 6c shows K_{cb} , $K_{cb\text{ act}}$ and K_e for the inter-cropping of both. Fig. 6a shows that a small stress occurred for wheat while Fig. 6b evidences that sunflower was largely stressed during the mid- and late-season stages, thus indicating that a large irrigation should have been given early in the mid-season. The resulting potential K_{cb} of the inter-cropping system (Fig. 6c) was smaller than that of the crops when single-cropped, with $K_{cb\text{ act}}$ following the trends evidenced for both crops when cropped alone. The K_e values also followed the K_e curves of both crops but they were different because basin irrigation was used and water was applied to the entire field, including when the second crop was not sowed yet, thus producing high evaporation in the non-cropped parts of the field. Fig. 6c shows that four irrigations were applied to the intercrop, however too early for sunflower that, contrarily to wheat, exhibited large water stress during mid- and late seasons. This is a consequence of avoiding irrigation by the end-season of wheat. The example shows that the use of a calibrated model helps interpreting and evaluating the irrigation schedules of intercropped crops.

4.4. Assessing alternative planting dates

An important issue in developing irrigation calendars is assessing the impacts of changing planting dates. Such changes may be desired when anticipating planting dates may increase the probability of rainfall early in the season, or to avoid hot waves in the late season. This search of better planting dates may be performed with irrigation scheduling models and using a statistical analysis of weather time

series, namely when supplemental irrigation is practiced, such as with small grains and grain legumes in the Mediterranean area. However, few examples are available in the literature and they mostly refer to the impacts on crop yields rather than on water requirements. *Abi-Saab et al. (2014)* provided a good example relative to sunflower and soybean cropped in Lebanon, while *Montoya and Otero (2019)* reported an application to soybean in Uruguay, in both cases using the AquaCrop model. A different approach, using BUDGET, consisted of performing an analysis of risk relative to maize planting dates (*Kipkorir et al., 2007*).

Various supplemental irrigation schedules for malting barley for industry were assessed for two contrasting rainfall years (*Pereira et al., 2015b; Paredes et al., 2017b*) using a cultivar that adjusts to a wide planting period, from November to January. Center-pivot irrigation was used with depths of 8 mm per event and ceasing 25 days before harvest to prevent water-related diseases that could affect malt grain quality. Based upon the observed sowing dates, the following alternatives were considered: 16th and 30th of December, and 6th and 16th of January. These sowing dates were assessed in terms of impacts on the total water use (TWU), forecasted yields (Y_a), and water productivity (WP_{total} , Eq. 21) defined in Section 2.5. They were also assessed considering two contrasting rainfall years - wet (2013) and dry (2012) - and various supplemental irrigation scenarios:

- Sc. 1: Full irrigation as practiced by the farmer ($MAD = p$);
- Sc. 2: Very mild water deficit during the entire season ($MAD = 1.10 p$, Eq. 10);
- Sc. 3: Moderate water deficit during most of the crop season ($MAD = 1.20 p$), but very mild ($MAD = 1.10 p$) during flowering/grain filling;
- Sc. 4: Moderate water stress during the entire season ($MAD = 1.20 p$);
- Sc. 5: Rainfed.

Fig. 7 shows the predicted TWU, yield and WP indicators for the four sowing dates and five irrigation management scenarios. The adoption of early sowing leads to a smaller TWU than late sowing, particularly in the wet year. In the dry year, differences in TWU among irrigation management scenarios are larger than those due to planting dates. Yields show to increase for the last two planting dates but, again, differences in yields are greater among irrigation scenarios. Under dry conditions, the use of supplemental irrigation to meet barley water requirements is essential since yields are much lower under rainfed

conditions. Differences in water productivity are larger among planting dates and quite small among irrigation management scenarios. Combining information relative to these three indicators, it was identified that the best sowing dates are likely those around the first days of January. The mid-January date is discouraged because the crop cycle enters in a period of high water demand by the late season, which increases TWU and decreases WP. The consideration of economic criteria would also be beneficial. This example shows the usefulness of a SWB model in recommending best planting dates to help farmers' decisions. This can also be based on weather forecasts that provide for anticipating crop growth conditions.

4.5. Assessing beneficial and non-beneficial water uses

The analysis of the water use by a crop allows to perform the field water balances and assess the time dynamics of its input and output terms, thus determining which are the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of water and, likely more important, which uses and consumptions are beneficial or, contrarily, consist of water waste and losses (Pereira et al., 2012). Molden and Sakthivadivel (2011) applied similar water use concepts at the basin scale, and Lecina et al. (2010) used this type of assessment to evaluate improvements of surface and sprinkler irrigation at the project scale. An application at field scale aimed at maximizing beneficial water use and controlling the non-beneficial one using the DSSAT-maize model is reported by Jiang et al. (2016).

An application of the SIMDualKc model to a malt barley cropped under center-pivot irrigation in Central Portugal (Pereira et al., 2015b) is used herein as example of assessing beneficial and non-beneficial water uses throughout the crop cycle. The model was calibrated using field data of the dry year 2012 and was validated with data of the wet year 2013. The various SWB terms for both years and four crop growth stages are presented in Table 3. Groundwater contribution was not included in the balance because the water table was below 10 m deep. Irrigation water application depths averaging 7 mm per event were adopted to prevent high water stress.

The non-consumptive water use terms, runoff (RO) and deep percolation (DP), were about nil in the dry year. RO was 10.5 % of the seasonal precipitation (P) in the wet year while DP, a potentially recoverable resource providing for vadose zone and aquifer recharge,

represented nearly 30 % of P. The consumptive use terms, $T_{c \text{ act}}$ and E_s , respectively beneficial and non-beneficial, showed a similar partition in both years, with transpiration representing 77 % of $ET_{c \text{ act}}$ in the wet year and 79 % in the dry year. E_s was smaller in the dry year because there was insufficient water supply during the late season, with $ET_{c \text{ act}}$ representing only 64 % of the potential ET_c . This fact occurred due to irrigation cutoff 25 days before harvesting in both years, with stored soil water supplying the crop in the wet year but not in the dry year. Otherwise, differences in consumptive water use in both years are small and are due to the higher climatic demand in the dry year, when ET_c was larger by 56 mm relative to the wet year. Performing water use assessment adopting this approach is uncommon but could be helpful when considering issues for water conservation.

4.6. Assessing the groundwater contribution from a shallow watertable

The assessment of groundwater contribution (GC) to crop water needs in the presence of a shallow water table is often performed with a transient state modeling approach (e.g. Ragab, 2002; Jovanovic et al., 2004; Acharya and Mylavarapu, 2015). Empirical functions are used by others, such as Yang et al. (2007), who computed GC as a function of the depth of the water table, the soil water storage and crop ET, which consists of a modification of the empirical approach proposed in FAO24 (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977). Differently, Liu et al. (2006) developed a parametric function for use in ISAREG and, later, with SIMDualKc, which parameters are calibrated during the process of model calibration (e.g., Cholpankulov et al., 2008). With this approach, GC is a function of the actual water table depth, the actual soil water storage in the root zone, crop evapotranspiration and potential (maximum) capillary rise, which depends upon the soil hydraulic characteristics that regulate the intensity of upward fluxes. Liu et al. (2006) proposed sets of default parameters relative to soil textural and hydraulic properties and that are improved through model calibration.

The use of SIMDualKc to assess consumptive and non-consumptive water use by a groundwater dependent *Leymus chinensis* grassland in eastern Inner Mongolia, China (Wu et al., 2016) is selected as an example of groundwater contribution assessment in a wet landscape. The analysis focused on the wet year of 2008 and the dry year of 2009. The daily dynamics of P, $T_{c \text{ act}}$, E_s and GC (all in mm) during the growth season is presented in Fig. 8, which clearly shows that the upward

Table 3

Water balance terms with discrimination of beneficial and non-beneficial uses (mm) relative to a supplemental irrigated barley crop in two contrasting rainfall years (adapted from Pereira et al., 2015b).

Year	Crop growth stages	Water supply (mm)			Water use (mm)					
					Non-consumptive		Consumptive			
					N-Benef.	Benef.			Benef.	N-Benef.
		P (mm)	I (mm)	Δ ASW (mm)	RO (mm)	DP (mm)	ET_c (mm)	$ET_{c \text{ act}}$ (mm)	$T_{c \text{ act}}$ (mm)	E_s (mm)
2012	Initial	2	0	16	0	0	18	18	3	15
	Development	45	95	-14	0	0	124	126	84	42
	Mid	106	40	14	2	0	165	158	142	16
	Late	2	10	52	0	0	100	64	60	4
	Season	155	145	68	2	0	407	366	289	77
2013	Initial	62	0	-43	2	0	17	17	2	15
	Development	175	0	-26	16	62	71	71	44	27
	Mid	261	0	42	42	108	153	153	135	18
	Late	70	0	40	0	0	110	110	89	21
	Season	568	0	13	60	170	351	351	270	81

P – precipitation, I – irrigation, Δ ASW – variation of the available soil water, RO – surface runoff, DP – deep percolation, ET_c – crop evapotranspiration, $ET_{c \text{ act}}$ – actual crop evapotranspiration, $T_{c \text{ act}}$ – actual crop transpiration, E_s – soil evaporation.

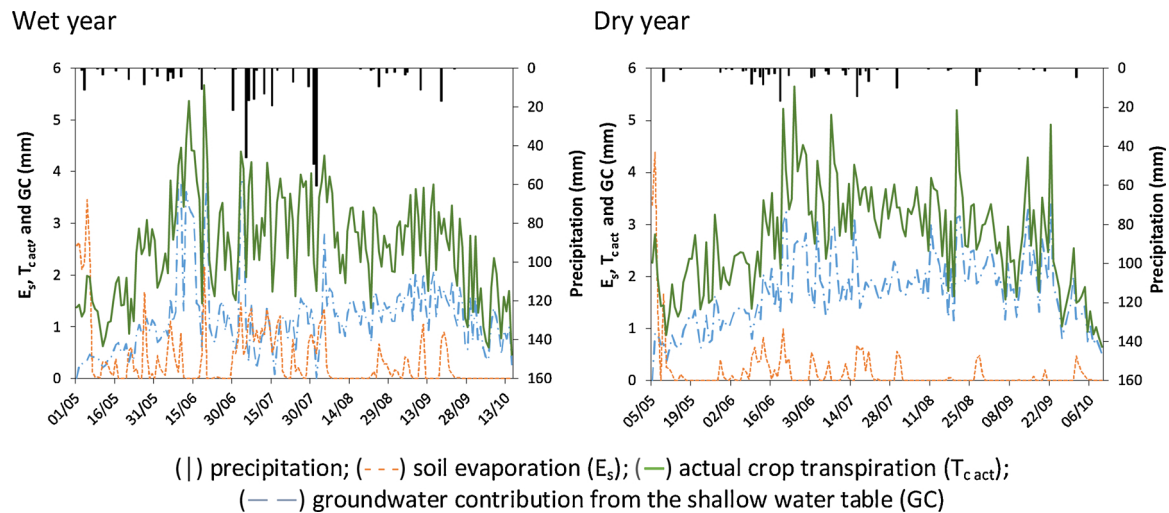


Fig. 8. Daily water balance of a groundwater dependent *Leymus chinensis* grassland in eastern Inner Mongolia, China, comparing a wet and a dry year with focusing on the groundwater contribution from a shallow water table (adapted from Wu et al., 2016).

Table 4

The terms of the water balance of a groundwater dependent *Leymus chinensis* grassland of eastern Inner Mongolia, China, comparing a wet and a dry year with focus on the groundwater contribution from a shallow watertable (adapted from Wu et al., 2016).

Year	Crop growth stages	Water supply (mm)				Water use (mm)				GC indicators	
		P	GC	ΔASW	TWS	Recharge	ET _{c act}	T _{c act}	E_s	GC/TWS (%)	GC/T _{c act} (%)
2008, wet	Initial	16	5	15	36	0	36	19	17	14	26
	Development	33	24	8	65	0	65	57	8	37	42
	Mid	326	141	−13	467	119	336	302	33	30	47
	Late	0	28	23	51	0	51	49	2	55	57
	Season	375	198	33	606	119	488	427	60	33	46
2009, dry	Initial	7	17	26	50	0	50	39	11	34	44
	Development	30	28	−5	58	0	53	48	5	48	58
	Mid	89	200	35	324	0	323	314	10	62	64
	Late	5	24	1	30	0	30	29	1	80	83
	Season	131	269	57	457	0	456	430	27	59	63

P – precipitation, GC – groundwater contribution; ΔASW – variation of the available soil water, TWS – total water supply; Recharge – deep percolation used to recharge the groundwater, ET_{c act} – actual crop evapotranspiration, T_{c act} – actual crop transpiration, E_s – soil evaporation.

fluxes from the shallow water table were the main fraction of the water supply to the studied grassland. GC is essential to meet the water requirements of this crop. GC was small when there was enough soil water for extraction by the grassland but increased when crop water demand was high and the SWC decreased. Comparing both years (Fig. 8), it is evident that $T_{c\ act}$ was similar in both years because GC supplemented rainfall, thus becoming much higher in the dry year, when rainfall was insufficient. Considering that ground cover by the grassland was very large, E_s depended on precipitation only, thus being higher in the wet year.

Results in Table 4 show that, despite rainfall in the wet year was nearly 3 times that of the dry year, ET_{c act} were not very different in both years, and T_{c act} were quite similar because GC effectively supplemented the lack of rainfall. The ratios between GC and the total water supply (TWS, mm) were very distinct, with GC/TWS = 33 % in the wet year and 59 % in the dry year. These ratios quantified well the relative importance of GC for the water supply of the considered grassland. The ratios between GC and actual transpiration also showed the role of GC in meeting the grassland water requirements since GC/T_{c act} increased from 46 to 63 % from the wet to the dry year.

5. Trends in real time irrigation scheduling

Real time irrigation scheduling aims at optimizing the timing and amount of water applied in the day-to-day irrigation management. It requires combining a model with data streaming from diverse sources such as weather forecasts, soil and plant sensors, or remote sensing data. Models referred in Tables 1 and 2 may be adopted for this purpose but they are generally used to support research.

In the past, several attempts to adapt and use SWB for supporting real time irrigation have been performed. Teixeira et al. (1995) developed and tested RELREG, a model derived from ISAREG, that could be updated every day, and used weather data predicted around three days in advance. Other models were developed and in use at farm level, e.g. SCHED for center-pivot irrigation (Buchleiter, 1995) and, for application at large scale, models such as RENANA (Giannerini, 1995). The latter has been continuously updated and gave origin to IRRIFRAME and IRRINET, widely used in Italy (Mannini et al., 2013; Giannerini and Genovesi, 2015), which enter in the era of the cloud data models.

In South Africa, a review of irrigation scheduling atmospheric-based computer models was published by Annandale et al. (2011). Computerized real-time irrigation scheduling revolved around a number of

historic models such as BEWAB (pre-plant seasonal irrigation schedules based on target yields; Bennie et al., 1988), “SWB” (providing daily water schedules based on calculated $ET_{c\ act}$; Annandale et al., 1999), PUTU (De Jager et al., 2001), and various specialized models for irrigation management of sugarcane (Singels, 2007). The adoption of scientific irrigation scheduling was investigated in a technical project by Stevens et al. (2005). The outcomes were that the uptake of scientific irrigation scheduling by farmers is low, it is highly dependent on many other day-to-day farming and business operations, and there is generally need for engaging dedicated managers, extensionists or consultants to run a scientifically-based irrigation scheduling program on commercial farms.

There are several web-based tools that were purposefully designed for supporting farmers in real-time irrigation decision-making such as IRRINET (Mannini et al., 2013; Giannerini and Genovesi, 2015) in Emilia Romagna Italy, the California Irrigation Management System (CIMIS, <https://cimis.water.ca.gov/>, accessed on 27 May 2020), the Arkansas Irrigation Scheduler (AIS, <https://irrigweb.uaex.edu/>, accessed on 27 May 2020), or the Mississippi irrigation scheduling tool (MIST). The SAPWAT model, originally developed by Crosby and Crosby (1999) with several improved versions (van Heerden and Walker, 2016), is used to determine crop water requirements and water allocations in South African water management areas. Other models with diverse workflows and computational procedures are applied for supporting farmers decision making, namely integrating SWB models, but they are rarely the object of scientific publications or information about calibration. Examples are the IRRIGA SYSTEM© (<https://www.irrigasystem.com/>, accessed on 25 May 2020) used both in South America and in Europe, IrrigaSys (<http://irrigasys.maretec.org/>, accessed on 27 May 2020) used in Vale do Sorraia, Portugal, and Irristrat™ (<http://www.hidrosoph.com/EN/index.html>, accessed on 27 May 2020) also applied in Portugal for both orchards and annual crops.

The developing field of information and communication technology (ICT) opened up a variety of opportunities for smart agriculture in general, and irrigation scheduling in particular, by making use of Internet of Things (IoT), satellites and drones, robotics and artificial intelligence to improve farming operations, management of irrigation schedules and fertigation, and to achieve better yields, quality of products and profits. Tzounis et al. (2017) provided a review of potential applications of IoT technologies in agriculture. The drivers for these technologies are large volumes of data that are generated in space and time, and commonly referred to as Big Data. Big Data can be defined as huge datasets (commonly in the order of magnitude of TB) originating from a diversity of sources that makes them difficult to be collected, stored and analysed by conventional tools and techniques (Chen and Zhang, 2014; Ylijoki and Porras, 2016). They can be categorized into structured data that can be easily stored in tabular format (e.g. soil and plant measurements, remote sensing georeferenced data), unstructured data (e.g. text, video, audio and images) or semi-structured data (e.g. emails and XML files) that are usually inconsistent to store and process in customary databases (Lee, 2017). In order to extract usable information from the variety of sources of information to the benefit of researchers, practitioners and farm managers, these data need to be processed through systems, such as machine learning, and packaged into tools that facilitate interpretation and decision-making.

Systems of heterogeneous sensors and networks for collection and communication of data are commonly referred to as Internet of Things (IoT). Given the vast amount of information and storage space that is often required, the processing, storage and analyses of these data can be done via Internet servers and infrastructure that are specifically designed for this purpose (e.g. Cloud Computing) (Tzounis et al., 2017). Ultimately, data need to be packaged into information tools, prescriptive/predictive models and decision-support systems that can aid decision-making on farms. Depending on data volume and computing requirements, irrigation scheduling tools can reside on cloud-based platforms (Bartlett et al., 2015). This is particularly the case when the

tools/apps require information from large databases, e.g. soil properties, climate, satellite-derived observations. In other instances, soil input and climatic data can be obtained from localized sources, e.g. soil measurements and weather forecasts, and all calculations can be performed in reasonable time with algorithms running in the background (e.g. Internet apps). Several examples of these IoT applications for irrigation scheduling were reported in the literature and described below.

The IoT infrastructure provides the opportunity to replace models, such as the above-mentioned SCHED, with automation-model systems applied to lateral moving systems coupled with sensors that provide for variable rate irrigation and nutrients applications, thus moving from the simple water scheduling to precision agriculture (Han et al., 2009). A review on variable rate issues for sprinkler systems, including an analysis of sensor systems usable for such purposes, was recently proposed by O'Shaughnessy et al. (2016). Similar approaches are used with drip-irrigated horticultural crops (Perea et al., 2017) and woody crops (Fernández, 2017). Payero et al. (2017) developed a communication system for transferring wireless soil water sensors data to an open-sources platform (<https://thingspeak.com>, accessed on 25 May 2020), where data are hosted and visualized in the form of usable information to support decision-making.

However, SWB models remain popular tools for supporting irrigation scheduling. For operational irrigation schedules, using real-time models requires daily updated actual weather data, which may not be fully available. Thus, alternative sources of climatic data have been tested showing good accuracy, such as the use of re-analysis data for estimating PM-ET_o (e.g. Paredes et al., 2018a), or satellite derived climatic products as referred by Paredes et al. (2020b). Since weather forecasts generally provide for incomplete data sets (precipitation and temperature), computing ET_o requires simplified approaches using temperature data only, namely the Penman-Monteith temperature (PMT) and the Hargreaves and Samani equation (HS-eq) (Paredes and Pereira, 2019; Paredes et al., 2020a). Thus, a main challenge in using models for supporting irrigation scheduling is to use short-term weather forecasts that could support real-time irrigation scheduling and, considering larger range forecasts, to plan irrigation in advance (Kusunose and Mahmood, 2016; Klemm and McPherson, 2017). Studies on the use of short-term weather forecasts to support irrigation scheduling focus more on precipitation than on climatic demand (ET_o). The study by Cai et al. (2009) focused on the use of short-term weather forecast messages provided by the National Meteorological Institute of China for estimating ET_o and supporting irrigation scheduling, showing the good adequacy particularly for estimation of crop ET using a SWB model. A similar but updated approach is reported by Zhang et al. (2018). Lorite et al. (2015) developed a methodology based on the use of weather forecast data from freely and easily accessible online information for determining irrigation scheduling, reporting good accuracy for ET_o estimations.

Other studies focus on evaluating the use of short-term forecasts for real-time decision support for irrigation scheduling in terms of net profit and water savings. Cai et al. (2011) assessed the use of rainfall short-term forecasts provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Despite the imperfect forecasts, results showed net profit of up to 8.5 % as well as high water savings ranging from 11.0 to 26.9 % when compared to modelled soil moisture information. The study by Hejazi et al. (2014) focused on the use of reanalysis-based short-term weather forecasts relative to rainfall and ET_o for supporting irrigation decision-making, reporting on average an expected profit of up to 3 % and a water saving ranging from 4 to 6 %. Jamal et al. (2018), using the Soil Water Atmosphere Plant (SWAP) model, reported an overall good performance of using probabilistic seasonal weather forecasts to support chickpea real-time irrigation scheduling. Differently, Linker et al. (2018), using the AquaCrop model for irrigation scheduling and yield predictions coupled with 4 to 6-day weather forecasts, reported an overall inadequacy of the forecasts for several locations (Denmark, Greece, Italy and Portugal) and crops (potato,

cotton, tomato and maize); in addition, these authors also outlined that there was no considerable advantage of using those forecasts relative to historical average data. Overall, the use of short-term weather forecasts keeps being a bottleneck due to their uncertainty/inaccuracy.

Combining SWB model predictions with plant indicators (Ferreira, 2017) and/or soil sensors, is also an option that has been investigated, e.g. Cancela et al. (2015) used SIMDualKc with an automatic control irrigation system supported by a low cost wireless soil moisture sensors network. Thus, these tools rely less on weather data, and more on soil and plant sensors, which calls for new approaches in using the FAO56 method. An example of such new approaches is the model reported by Schwartz et al. (2020) aimed at actual K_c for maize when deficit irrigation is used and non-uniform soils also affect the crop and the available soil water. The use of soil water sensors is recognized as having a great importance for the accuracy of modern SWB modeling approaches (El-Naggar et al., 2020). The use of canopy temperature sensors is also recognized as contributing to improved accuracy (Han et al., 2018).

Remote sensing data provide the opportunity to model at large scale and they typically fall in the domain of Big Data. This includes both data originating from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV, Ortega-Farias et al., 2016; Tang et al., 2019) and satellites. Two main approaches may be considered: energy balance models and vegetation indices. Models such as SEBAL (Surface Energy Balance Algorithm of Land), TSEB (Two-Source Energy Balance) and METRIC (Mapping Evapotranspiration with Internalized Calibration) are quite accurate in assessing crop evapotranspiration from the energy balance (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998; Allen et al., 2011a; French et al., 2015; Dhungel et al., 2016). ET from remote sensing may also be used to derive K_c or K_{cb} values. Vegetation indices, mainly the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and the Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index (SAVI), are often used to estimate K_c and K_{cb} values (Johnson and Trout, 2012; Pôças et al., 2015; Campos et al., 2017). Satellite K_c data are then assimilated into SWB models. Another issue is the assessment of crop stress indicators from remote sensing (Pôças et al., 2017), namely using UAV. The use of optical/thermal satellite imagery at farm level would also allow drawing water requirement maps and implementing precise irrigation (Hendrickx et al., 2016).

Melton et al. (2012, 2020) described the SIMS framework that combines NASA's Terrestrial Observation and Prediction System (TOPS), Landsat and MODIS satellite imagery, and a surface sensors network to map indicators of crop irrigation demand and to develop information products to support irrigation management and other water use decisions. Li et al. (2018) described and tested a new method for sequential data assimilation that allows integrating soil water content measurements into the Community Land Model (CLM) aiming to improve irrigation scheduling. Evaluation of the method was performed on several citrus orchards allowing to save on average 24 % of water relative to the farmers' irrigation schedules while the use of the irrigation schedules based upon the FAO56 SWB provided for similar average water savings of 22 %.

The development of mobile and on-line applications (apps) has also been investigated, with support of cloud computing and IoT. This kind of tools allows to provide to farmers easy-to-use information (Car et al., 2012), particularly when the information is conveyed using text messaging service (SMS). Todorovic et al. (2016) described and evaluated an automatized decision support system (Hydro-Tech) available as an app; Hydro-Tech integrates FAO56 methods, including the SWB, with continuous soil sensor-based monitoring, short-term weather forecasts, remote monitoring of the water supply network, diverse tools for data-cloud processing, and an economic and eco-efficiency assessment tool for optimizing irrigation scheduling. Evaluations performed in farmers' fields with diverse crops (vegetables and fruit orchards) in the Apulia region, Italy, showed potential water savings ranging from 5 % to 20 % relative to the schedules used by farmers. Goap et al. (2018) presented an IoT-based smart irrigation management system, available as an app,

using machine learning technology to predict crop irrigation requirements when combining sensing soil moisture along with the forecasts of precipitation, air temperature and humidity. Good accuracy of soil moisture predictions was reported thus allowing improving irrigation scheduling. An irrigation scheduling app (Bluleaf®) was evaluated by Abi-Saab et al. (2019) using field observations and showing its accuracy for estimations of soil moisture content and leaf water potential along the wheat season. In addition, the tool was able to enhance water savings by almost 26 % relative to the farmer's traditional schedule.

The progression of the satellite-based SEBAL model into an operational tool for irrigation scheduling is of particular interest. The private venture eLEAF (<https://eleaf.com>, accessed on 25 May 2020) developed a number of applications of interest to irrigation scheduling, namely PiMapping®7 (Pixel Intelligence Mapping), CropLook for field crops, as well as GrapeLook and FruitLook for grapes and fruit trees in the Western Cape, South Africa. The applications are based on satellite information to produce evapotranspiration maps and data that farmers and practitioners can access through a web portal (<https://www.fruitlook.co.za/>, accessed on 25 May 2020). A similar service providing information that can be accessed with different devices is IrriSat (<https://www.irrisat.com/en/home-2>, accessed on 25 May 2020). The Portuguese Association of Horticulture also makes available to farmers an app for real-time irrigation advice, Manna Irrigation Intelligence (<https://aphorticultura.pt/2020/01/13/manna-irrigation-intelligence-tecnologia-de-deteccao-remota/>, accessed on 27 May 2020), which bases upon a SWB model, remote sensing data and weather forecasts.

Advances in ICT provide great opportunities to make use of large volumes of data and sources (sensors, models, remote sensing, images, tweets, farmers' knowledge and experience, etc.). For using the K_c -ET_o approach, ET_o may be estimated with reduced datasets using the PMT and HS-eq approaches which require, among other, ground observed data, gridded and reanalysis data, and/or Meteosat Second Generation products, as well as forecasted weather data (Allen et al., 2020; Paredes et al., 2020a, b). K_c data sets refer to the updated tabulated standard K_c and K_{cb} values (Pereira et al., 2020a, b) and to the use of the A&P approach to compute K_{cb} and K_c from f_c and height (Allen and Pereira, 2009; Pereira et al., 2020c, d). The challenge is to streamline these diversely structured data into usable and reliable information. Although major advances have been documented in the literature, the level of uptake is still not widespread mainly due to the need to own devices, applications, costs of services, etc. Maintenance of these systems can also be expensive in terms of hardware (e.g. sensors exposed in the field), securing a steady power supply, network and software stability, data storage infrastructure, security and access control. Nevertheless, given the volume of usable information that can potentially be produced to optimize farming production, it can be expected that IoT will become a more and more prominent feature in smart farming.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

The current review has shown that SWB models have an enormous potential for irrigation scheduling including the assessment of alternative crop management practices, as well as biophysical and economic indicators of crop water productivity. The FAO56 methodology adopted in SWB is very accurate with moderate data requirements; simpler SWB models have been adopted for supporting irrigation scheduling but likely at a greater risk of water balance inaccuracies, namely when deep percolation and capillary rise are not properly taken into consideration and when K_c estimation is less appropriate. Research users may also prefer to adopt mechanistic, high-input intensive models having capabilities to simulate crop growth and yield as depending not only on water, but also on nutrients and other practices. Trends for future also refer to the adoption of crop growth and yield models for irrigation scheduling, at least for research purposes; the adoption of the FAO56 method in the DSSAT models already performed (DeJonge and Thorp, 2017) consists of an excellent foundation for this purpose.

Easy to parameterize and calibrate, field and crop-focused SWB models will likely continue to be used by farmers and farm advisers as well as using the cloud data facilities at the large scale. However, trends for IoT and cloud computing seem to lean towards simpler crop ET computations, likely using the K_c -ET_o approach. Then, ET_o is likely estimated from temperature using the FAO56 recommended approaches (PMT and HS-eq), or is derived from reanalysis products, gridded data or Meteosat Second Generation products, as well as using forecasted weather data.

Future trends are also envisaged with farmers using models with ready to use information through mobile phones and smartphone apps. This approach is easier to apply with IoT or cloud data. In fact, simpler models provide acceptable to good indicative information to support basic irrigation decisions while more complex models are difficult to be deployed for the variety of users in terms of crops and cropping practices and management. It is therefore recommended that IoT models use the FAO56 method, including the updated FAO56 temperature based ET_o, and the updated data sets of K_c and K_{cb} , or with application of the A&P approach to estimate K_{cb} and K_c from the fraction of ground cover and crop height, that are well proved and tested at various locations. Innovation in cloud data and IoT models needs to enlarge the present focus on solving data acquisition and sensors management to the quality of crop and ET computations, since this approach may support attaining better water productivity and water saving, which are definitely relevant in terms of facing climate change.

A main opportunity for future is the use of remote sensing and the integration of remotely-sensed data into the SWB and crop growth models. Two main approaches may be considered (energy balance models and vegetation indices) as well as diverse sources of information (satellite imagery, imagery obtained from drones and infrared thermometry measurements on the ground). The dual K_c approach is already used in remote sensing applications for estimating ET_c of various crops, which compared well with the K_{cb} estimated using the SIMDualKc model for many crops. Thus, results show that for real-time irrigation management the K_{cb} derived from remotely sensed vegetation indices may be used to adjust SIMDualKc and similar models' simulations in near real-time, particularly when using sensors from satellites with high revisiting frequency.

An effective exchange between research and practice represents a great challenge in SWB models use and development. Research uses models to better and more accurately understand the processes relative to soil water fluxes and transport in the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum. Irrigators need that a SWB model responds to their need for knowing when and how much water to apply to a crop in a given environment and in a defined development stage. The users require timely and simple responses, very easy to interpret. SWB models for research and practice already are, and will keep being distinct. The question is therefore how and which information created from research shall pass into practice and which type of SWB will facilitate both new knowledge and its transfer to practice. Likely this requires that research considers transferability as a main option, but that freedom of research is not affected by the need for transferability of results. Is the development of more and more sophisticated models a need? Is scrutiny of field data quality a priority? Is the consideration of the energy balance, namely through crop coefficients, an essential approach in research? Is empirical research, with a minimal use of models to be continued? Would it be advantageous to bring into research the models used in practice? These are questions that future research should debate and substantiate.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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